

Bush, Gorbachev may open peace talks

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House said Wednesday it was possible that President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would open a Middle East peace conference but that no final decision had been made. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, asked if the two leaders would open talks that officials hope to begin on Oct. 29 in Lausanne, Switzerland, told reporters: "Certainly that's possible." President Bush and President Gorbachev "have both been involved in trying to expedite this conference and trying to push it forward as much as possible," Mr. Fitzwater said, stressing that final details have yet to be agreed by Israel and its Arab neighbours. "They both would be interested in getting the peace conference off to a good start," Mr. Fitzwater said of the two world leaders, "but at this point we just aren't willing to make a commitment." Mr. Fitzwater left open the door to a Bush-Gorbachev summit, but declined comment on a report they would talk in Lausanne on Oct. 27-28, saying "we don't have any definitive plans, but I'm sure they will meet at some point."

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France, Germany propose Euroarmy

PARIS (R) — France and Germany unveiled far-reaching proposals Wednesday for a European army independent of NATO and a joint EC policy towards the United States and the Soviet Union. But Britain, Washington's most faithful ally in Europe, reacted critically. The Franco-German initiative, launched ahead of a landmark European Community summit in December, was contained in a five-page document drafted in treaty language and sent to EC heads of state and government on Monday. It was the boldest plan ever penned to turn the community into a political union with a common foreign policy and its own defence arm. President Francois Mitterrand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl wrote in a joint letter that their aim was to give a new impulse to long-stalled talks on EC foreign and security policy. They proposed that a largely symbolic joint Franco-German brigade, formed last year, be the nucleus of a future European army corps under the nine-nation Western European Union (WEU). The corps would implement a joint EC defence policy.

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8 ambassadors present credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — Eight new ambassadors Wednesday presented their credentials to His Majesty King Hussein in a special ceremony at the Raghadan Palace. The ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber. The King received the credentials of Chinese Ambassador Hahn-Choon Lee, Thai Ambassador Bhirassak Moobhitaporn, Indonesian Ambassador Mohammad Hasan Adami, Spanish Ambassador Juan Manuel Carrera, Uruguayan Ambassador Claudio Sosa, Uruguayan Ambassador Jose Luis Bruno, Danish Ambassador Christian Oldenburg and Polish Ambassador Krzysztof Balasinski.

Prince Faisal meets Finnish leaders

HELSINKI (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein met Wednesday with the acting prime minister of Finland and Helsinki governor. The two Finnish officials commended relations between their country and Jordan and stressed the importance of enhancing them in the various fields of cooperation, particularly in tourism. The two meetings were attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal and the Jordanian ambassador to Finland.

Saudis allow entry for Jordanian trucks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Saudi Arabian authorities have decided to allow Jordanian trucks to enter Saudi territory after a break of almost one year. Jordanian trucks travelling to other Arab countries in the Gulf were barred from passing through Saudi territory when the Gulf crisis broke out last year. A statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Jordanian trucks will be allowed to enter provided their drivers hold valid visas.

Mubarak in Bonn

BONN (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Bonn Wednesday for talks with German officials about the Middle East peace process. Mr. Mubarak was welcomed by German President Richard von Weizsaecker at the presidential residence, Villa Hammerschmidt. On Thursday, Mr. Mubarak is to hold separate talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Economics Minister Juergen Moelleman and other German officials. Dieter Vogel, Mr. Kohl's main spokesman, said the talks would focus on Middle East peace efforts and the economic effects on Egypt of the Gulf war.

Ghozali reshuffles his cabinet

ALGIERS (R) — Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali reshuffled his cabinet Wednesday, taking personal charge of the Algerian economy, a well-informed source said. The source, describing the move as a "technical reshuffle," told Reuters the post of interior minister would also change. Less than 24 hours earlier, President Chadli Benjedid announced that the country's first multiparty general election would be held on Dec. 26 (see page 2).

Bush nominates Barr as attorney general

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush Wednesday nominated William Barr to become his attorney general to fill the post left vacant by Dick Thornburgh, who resigned to run for the Senate. Mr. Barr has been acting attorney general. The attorney general heads the U.S. Justice Department and is a member of the cabinet. His appointment requires confirmation by the Senate. Insiders said Mr. Bush was impressed by Mr. Barr's performance as acting attorney general, particularly the way he dealt with a prison uprising in Alabama. On Mr. Barr's orders, federal agents stormed a prison in Talladega, fearing jailed Cuban exiles would start killing hostages, and in three minutes freed all nine hostages.

Baker secures Syrian 'yes' for peace talks

U.S. secretary meets with Palestinians ahead of meetings with Israeli leaders

Combined agency despatches

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE James Baker won final Syrian agreement to attend an Arab-Israeli peace conference Wednesday.

Mr. Baker emerged from talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad declaring that an unprecedented Arab-Israeli peace conference was still on course to hold a peace conference in this month. "It is my view that we are still on course to hold a peace conference in this month of October," said Mr. Baker, on his eighth Middle East peace mission since the Gulf war.

U.S. officials were jubilant after what one described as "some of the toughest negotiations I have ever seen Jim Baker do." The official said Syria had agreed to a letter of assurances from the United States. "We've got it put to bed, it's all done," he said.

Mr. Baker later flew to occupied Jerusalem and went straight into talks with Palestinian activists from the occupied territories.

The Palestinians have yet to agree to attend the peace conference or nominate delegates, even though the United States and the Soviet Union are expected to send out invitations this weekend.

Comments made in Damascus

by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa illustrated the enormous gulf between the parties.

"This very hand that you would like me to shake is very guilty," Mr. Sharaa said at a joint news conference with Mr. Baker after more than 12 hours of talks.

"It's a hand which occupies our lands, ignores Palestinian national rights and for the last decades we have been suffering from this constant occupation... and constant repression," Mr. Sharaa said.

A U.S. official dismissed the comment as "purely symbolic" and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy's office declined comment. But Mr. Sharaa's statement injected a rancorous note into what otherwise seemed a successful visit.

Underlining this, Mr. Sharaa also vowed not to attend Arab-Israeli talks on regional issues which are supposed to take place alongside the peace negotiations and urged other Arab states to stay away as well.

Israel regards these talks on issues like arms control, sharing water resources and the environment as symbolising its acceptance by the Arab World as a legitimate state.

But Mr. Sharaa said: "We hope that our Arab brothers, the other Arab states who are not

directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict, will participate only after tangible and substantial results will come out of the peace conference."

An Israeli official said Syria's stance played into the hands of Israeli right-wingers who oppose the peace conference because they fear it will lead to a process in which Israel will be forced to give up occupied territory.

But the official said it alone would not put the peace conference in doubt since Mr. Baker had managed to generate unstoppable momentum.

The one remaining major obstacle — the participation of the Palestinians — was expected to fall into place in the next few days.

Mr. Baker flew out from Syria after telling reporters "we are still on course to hold a peace conference in the month of October."

Mr. Baker said there was disagreement on only one point with President Assad — the timing of negotiations on such issues as the arms buildup in the Middle East and scarce water resources.

During their joint news conference in Damascus, Mr. Baker and Mr. Sharaa suggested co-sponsors the United States and the Soviet Union would be able to open Arab-Israeli negotiations by

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Settlers stage anti-Baker protest; Shamir 'concerned' over Syria

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Arab Jewish settlers from the occupied Arab territories protested Wednesday against U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to convene Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that he was concerned by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) role in the Middle East peace process and Syria's reluctance to participate in negotiations on regional issues.

Mr. Shamir expressed hope the proposed peace conference will take place, but warned that Israel might refuse to attend if it feels the negotiations are dominated by the PLO.

"The state of Israel is facing, as we hope, the start of a peace process with our neighbours," Mr. Shamir said in a speech to soldiers.

"It won't be a rose garden," he added.

In a separate Israel Radio interview, Mr. Shamir was asked if he was worried by Damascus' reluctance to take part in negotiations on such issues as Middle East arms buildup and scarce water resources.

"It makes a difference, it proves something. But as I said I will give my reaction after I get their reaction in an official manner," Mr. Shamir said.

Mr. Shamir was to meet with Mr. Baker Thursday. Mr. Baker arrived in Israel Wednesday evening from Damascus to finalise plans for the peace conference, proposed for late October.

About 1,000 hardline demonstrators and Jewish settlers chanted "go home" as Mr. Baker arrived at the U.S. consulate in west Jerusalem to meet with a group of Palestinian leaders, most of them known as PLO supporters.

Israel Radio, Mr. Shamir was asked if Israel might refuse to attend the conference if the PLO question is not resolved. "Anything is possible," he replied.

Israel refuses to deal with the PLO. In a 17-point draft U.S.-Israeli agreement outlined in Wednesday's Israeli newspapers,

points on such issues as Middle East arms buildup and scarce water resources.

Small groups of rival leftist Israelis marched in support of Mr. Baker's peace efforts but Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip were kept out of Jerusalem by paramilitary police.

Police estimated 2,000 settlers and their families chanting "Baker go home" demonstrated outside the U.S. consulate.

The settlers, most wearing the skullcaps of religious Jews, and some carrying Uzzi submachine guns, brandished placards expressing fear that peace talks could pressure Israel into handing back the Arab land where they live.

"There's a message to be sent to Baker and President (George) Bush about Silwan. The Jewish people belong here," said Marc Zell, one of the organisers who brought busloads of settlers from their hilltop enclaves in the occupied territories.

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Israeli media unveil 17-point letter of American assurances

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Tuesday that Israel has reached preliminary agreement with the United States on terms for convening a Middle East peace conference.

The 17-point accord, portions of which were published as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was in the region, is part of a letter of assurances Israel has sought from Washington in advance of peace talks, another official said.

Mr. Baker was due in occupied Jerusalem Wednesday for three days, after visiting Egypt, Jordan and Syria to finalise plans for a peace conference expected later this month.

"There are things that had to be closed with the United States and this we have done, and we must continue on Thursday to close the other subjects, to improve formulations," Mr. Levy said on army radio.

The other Israeli official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, stressed that the letter was not fully published yet because not all

points were finalised.

A key unresolved item was who represents Palestinians, the official said.

Mr. Levy disclosed the letter to a closed-door session of parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee, and the official later confirmed media summaries of 11 of the points.

One major point obtained from the Americans was a promise that Israel would not be forced to end its boycott of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Another was Washington's veiled recognition of Israel's rejection of insistence by Western countries that United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 ostensibly call on Israel to yield land to the Arabs for peace.

The points were as follows as reported in the Israeli media:

A key clause in the letter of assurances, states that the U.S. sees the objective of the Middle East negotiations as to attain genuine peace and reconciliation between the peoples of the region, accompanied by peace treaties and full diplomatic rela-

tions.

The clause states that the U.S. will take serious steps to achieve all this, Foreign Minister David Levy told the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee yesterday when he read the document to the MKs.

Other clauses note that:

— The opening conference will have no power to take decisions, hold votes or impose positions.

— Negotiations will be direct only.

— The U.S. will not support linkage between the various bilateral negotiations.

— No party need sit with another party against its wishes.

— The U.S. has no intention of bringing about a dialogue between Israel and the PLO or negotiations between them.

— Palestinians taking part in negotiations must be residents of the West Bank or the Gaza Strip who accept phased direct negotiations in two tracks and are ready to live at peace with Israel.

— The U.S. will not support

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Palestinian council meets amid pressure for participation in peace conference

By Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Central Council (PCC) opened a crucial session Wednesday night amid mounting pressures to authorise Palestinian participation in the proposed Middle East peace conference.

Palestinian officials in Amman and Tunis said that the organisation was pondering whether to keep the PCC session open until the PLO received further clarifications from the U.S. or to declare names of delegates representing Palestinians from inside the Israeli-occupied territories and the diaspora, including Eastern Jerusalem.

The first option appeared to be the preferred course by the PLO leadership, especially that there is a consensus among the Palestinian leaders in Tunis and in the Israeli-occupied territories that the American assurances are far

below the minimum requirements to ensure adequate Palestinian representation.

The leadership might be trying to postpone its decision at least until Israel declares its final word on the conference and its terms.

The PLO was hoping that it could secure a coordinated Arab position at least among the major Arab countries involved prior to taking its decision. A top-level delegation will go to Damascus following reports that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was now more interested in closer coordination with the PLO.

Yet the PLO leadership is aware that it might be pressured to make a final decision in the next 24 hours as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is pressing for all parties to make up their minds.

The latter option will be a dramatic move since it will be viewed as a challenge to the U.S. efforts to confine the PLO to an indirect and invisible role in the

peace process.

The PCC was also going to discuss the ratification of a draft political agreement with Jordan, which was discussed earlier this between a PLO delegation and the Jordanian government and the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

PLO officials in Tunis said that even though there is no opposition to the principle of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the main snag remains that the PLO has not yet secured American assurances regarding Palestinian representation at the conference.

"We have no problem with Jordan. The problem is that the U.S. is demanding the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation according to its terms and is completely dismissing the Palestinian terms," a senior PLO official said.

The shift towards militancy in the PLO position was influenced by three factors; first, Mr. Bak-

er's insistence that the list of the Palestinian candidates to take part in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation prior to the PCC session, thus practically ending the PLO's role prior to the conference. Secondly, the mood inside the occupied territories, which according to PLO officials, refuses a compromise over East Jerusalem and the issue of Israeli settlements.

Thirdly, a statement by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy that in its letter of assurances to Tel Aviv Washington has promised to confine Palestinian representation to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and contained no reference to exchanging land for peace as a basis for the suggested conference.

The 17-point American letter of assurance, as was read by Mr. Levy to the Knesset's defense committee and reported by Israeli Radio, gives Israel the

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'Equal footing for EC with U.S., Soviets at peace parley'

From Nermeen Murad
In Bonn

THE EUROPEAN Community (EC) has secured a prominent role on an equal footing with the United States and the Soviet Union in the proposed Middle East peace conference and will seek to exert its influence in the peace process, senior German officials said Wednesday.

"The role of the EC will not be that of a mere observer," said one official, who preferred anonymity. "The community's participation will be on an equal footing with the U.S. and the USSR with the same rights and we hope that we could be influential in making sure that a fair, just and durable peace is achieved in the Middle East on the basis of comprehensive solutions to the various dimensions of the conflict," the official told the Jordan Times.

Another German official indicated that the EC might consider financial assistance to the parties involved to ensure that agreements reached at the peace conference are maintained.

"The EC is willing to consider assistance in various forms to guarantee that the agreements reached are preserved and respected," the official said, also preferring anonymity.

It was reported earlier that the powerful community will be represented at the peace conference

by the EC presidency — currently held by the Netherlands — as an observer.

The officials did not say how and when the community had secured the assurance of a prominent role in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

But, the official revealed that the EC, whose member states have extensive commercial relations with Israel, had exerted its influence on the Jewish state to accept to attend the peace conference, to be held under joint American-Soviet sponsorship later this month.

"We told them (Israel) that if you want us to be a commercial and economic partner then you also have to accept us as a political party which has interests in the Middle East," the official said.

The EC, which is embroiled in a row with the Israelis over the posting of a special EC envoy in the occupied territories to oversee the implementation of EC-financed programmes for the Palestinians living there, has said earlier that some of the special trade privileges that Israel enjoys with the EC member states could be jeopardised if it rejected initiatives for Arab-Israeli peace.

The community has also used the trade privileges as a lever to convince Israel into allowing direct exports of Palestinian agricultural produce from the occupied terri-

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Picco leaves Beirut; U.N. reports hostage progress

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A U.N. envoy left Lebanon on Wednesday after talks with kidnappers demanding protection against retaliation once all their Western hostages are freed, sources said.

They said Giandomenico Picco, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's chief mediator in the hostage crisis, left for Damascus after meeting the kidnappers Tuesday.

The sources had no details of Mr. Picco's next destination or of the talks, which were held either in eastern Lebanon's Bakaa Valley or Beirut. It was unclear if they would lead to a breakthrough in the hostage crisis.

In New York, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said that Mr. Picco was making progress towards obtaining the release of one or more of the Western hostages held there.

"Things are moving," Mr. Perez de Cuellar told reporters when asked about the mission of Mr. Picco, his top expert on the hostage issue.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar declined to provide any details of the negotiations.

"This is a matter which is extremely, extremely sensitive, and that is why I have to refrain from any comment which could spoil the chances of getting some good results," he said.

Western diplomats have high hopes that more Western hostages would be freed as a result of Mr. Picco's mission.

He arrived in Damascus from

New York Sunday after talks in the last two weeks with Uri Lubrani, Israel's chief hostage negotiator, and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Mr. Picco is trying to push forward a swap-by-stages involving the nine Western hostages, six missing Israelis and hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinians held by Israel and its militia allies.

One British and two American hostages have been released since the pro-Israeli kidnappers decided in August to seek U.N. mediation. Israel has freed 51 Lebanese prisoners and returned the bodies of nine guerrillas.

The same sources, told Reuters Tuesday the kidnappers were concerned that they would be hunted down by Western and Israeli intelligence services once all their hostages were released.

The kidnappers had been expected to press the U.N. mediator for international guarantees of their own safety — one of the hurdles delaying resolving the problem, the sources said.

Mr. Picco had been expected to seek information on two Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon and to request the release of a Western hostage as the next step in ending the seven-year saga.

The kidnappers wanted Mr. Picco to convince Israel that it should first free a second of Arab prisoners before any more of

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Jordan and PLO agree on united stand at peace talks

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan have agreed to a united front at peace talks with Israel but key disputes with Washington still threaten Palestinian participation, PLO officials said Wednesday.

"We have a complete political agreement with Jordan," PLO official Yasser Abed Rabbo told Reuters before leaving for Tunis after meetings between PLO and Jordanian officials.

PLO officials in Amman and Tunis said that if the Palestinians decided to attend the proposed conference they would do so as part of a joint team which would report to a high command of King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

But Jordan seemed to downplay the role of the PLO, which is outlawed by Israel and ostracised by Washington.

"We are not discussing (the joint delegation) with the PLO, we are discussing it with the people from the occupied territories," said Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif.

He said Amman had agreed that a Palestinian and a Jordanian would preside jointly over the delegation but added that no final arrangements had been made on the joint command.

The joint team signifies a concession by Palestinians, who had originally insisted on independent representation. Co-chairmanship gives them a bigger role than had been originally expected.

PLO officials said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is trying to convene a peace conference before the end of the month, had agreed to joint chairmanship of the delegation, which would consist of 14 members on each side.

The Palestinians, fearing their voices would be diluted in a joint delegation, had wanted an independent team but have run up against Israeli refusal to deal with the PLO.

The agreement with Jordan follows reports from diplomats that Syria has told Mr. Baker it will consult with the Palestinians before making its own decision on the talks. A PLO official, however, said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had not informed the Palestinian leadership of such a stand.

"It sounds good in the newspapers," he said, adding that Mr. Arafat was expected to travel soon to Damascus to see Mr. Assad, with whom he has had a rocky relationship in the past.

PLO officials in Amman said Mr. Arafat was due in Jordan after Friday to discuss coopera-

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Helicopter row rekindled after Baghdad's warning

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A senior U.N. official said Wednesday that weapons inspectors would not abandon their helicopter flights over Iraq, even though Baghdad warned the aircraft might be shot down if Israeli planes were nearby.

A leading Iraqi scientist said in remarks published Wednesday that documents seized by the United Nations would disprove allegations Iraq was making a hydrogen bomb.

The scientist told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that Iraq had been "carrying out a primary study of lithium," which is used in the making of a hydrogen bomb, but ridiculed allegations that the programme was for a bomb.

INA did not name the scientist, apparently reflecting official concern that those engaged in Iraqi nuclear research could be targets of assassination attempts.

It said the main reason it blocked inspectors in a Baghdad car park for four days last month was that they had seized personnel records whose distribution could endanger the lives of scientists.

"...The scientific and technical context of the issue is clear and detailed in the scientific documents and reports Iraq submitted to the international inspection team."

"We have no doubt that those qualified will ridicule (the allegations)," the scientist said.

"Those who conclude that Iraq is working on producing a hydro-

rogen bomb because Iraqi researchers are investigating the chemistry of lithium are beginning to realise that what they say is inconceivable."

"They know that a drop of water is not an ocean and a grain of sand is no mountain," said the scientist, whom INA described as prominent.

"We are proud of our achievements in this regard but we are not the sort of people who measure their height by their shadow," he said.

The U.N. secretary-general, meanwhile, dismissed Iraqi allegations that U.N. helicopter sorties were intended to prevent Iraqi gunners from shooting at nearby Israeli surveillance planes.

"As an accusation, it is totally false and unjustified. There is no basis for saying such a thing," Javier Perez de Cuellar told reporters at U.N. headquarters.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayyer said U.N. helicopters could be shot down if they use the same airspace as Israeli warplanes flying over Iraq. He made the threat in an Oct. 13 letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

"Under no circumstances will the missions stop," said Alastair Livingston, regional chief of operations for the U.N. special commission set up to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

"If we conceive a problem, and

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Hamas leader jailed for life

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, leader of the Muslim movement Hamas, was convicted by a military court Wednesday of manslaughter, incitement and heading an illegal organisation.

The court sentenced Sheikh Yassin, 56 and confined to a wheelchair since childhood, to life in prison for manslaughter and 15 years on other charges. The sentences were to be concurrent. It was not immediately known if he would be eligible for parole.

The conviction and sentencing of Sheikh Yassin came hours before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was to arrive in Israel on his eighth mission to convene a Middle East peace conference and his sentencing was likely to spark unrest in the Gaza Strip where Hamas has a wide following.

Sheikh Yassin originally was charged with masterminding the kidnapping and killing of two Israeli soldiers in 1989 but that charge was dropped in a last-minute plea bargain Wednesday.

Army radio reported earlier Wednesday that Sheikh Yassin was convicted of plotting the soldiers' abduction and killing.

Sheikh Yassin who has been jailed since his arrest in May 1989, confessed in a heavily guarded special military court in Gaza to founding and directing a hostile organisation as well as homicide, incitement and possession of firearms.

In exchange for his confession, the prosecutor agreed to drop charges of killing soldiers. He was convicted of ordering the killings

of Palestinians suspected of cooperating with Israeli authorities.

Sheikh Yassin founded the fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement, called Hamas (Zeal), in Gaza in 1987. Hamas, with the United Leadership of the Uprising, has led nearly four years of Palestinian revolt against Israeli rule.

Sheikh Yassin, crippled in a sporting accident as a youth, remained defiant as he spoke to reporters before the trial.

"Is this justice, to make our Muslim Palestinian people... drink from the same bitter cup as the Jews drank from. Now the Jews make our people drink from the same cup," Sheikh Yassin said.

A general strike called by Hamas for the day of the trial was observed throughout the Gaza Strip Wednesday. Palestinian sources reported scattered clashes between troops and demonstrators. Troops shot and wounded a 19-year-old man during a clash in Gaza.

Hamas has opposed U.S. proposals for Arab-Israeli peace talks.

This week Hamas and five other hardline Palestinian movements issued a joint statement in the Israeli-occupied territories condemning peace efforts as a sell-out of the Palestinian people.

"Our next generations will curse all the people who are abandoning our rights," the statement said. It was also signed by Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Fatah Intifada, and Islamic Mujahed Trend.

Turkish cross-border raids anger Kurds

ZAKHO, Iraq (R) — Jamila Ramazan Mohammad was working in a tomato field with her husband and son when Turkish planes appeared over their village in northern Iraq Friday.

"We thought they were American so we weren't worried," the 20-year-old woman said from her hospital bed in Zakho on Tuesday. "Then the bombs started to fall. I'm not going back now. I am too afraid."

All three family members, from the village of Banik, are in hospital with burns that doctors say were caused by napalm.

Turkey's raids on bases of the Turkish separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) have angered Iraqi Kurds and bewildered relief workers trying to resettle refugees in their villages.

They have also embarrassed the U.S.-led coalition which still staffs a military coordination centre (MCC) to liaise between the Iraqi army, Kurdish groups and relief agencies.

A senior Turkish military source in Ankara said Tuesday that Turkish forces had left northern Iraq. Officials said troops and planes had destroyed a string of PKK bases.

Turkey launched similar cross-border attacks in August which it said killed 35 PKK fighters. Hospital officials said a dozen Iraqi Kurdish civilians also died.

Fadhel Merani, a senior member of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), one of two big Iraqi guerrilla groups, said Turkish raids at the weekend had killed two civilians and wounded 22.

The Kurdistan Front, which includes the KDP, has said three Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas were killed and nine were wounded.

"We condemn these attacks," said Mr. Merani. "Turkey is a

member of NATO and a member of the allied coalition supposedly protecting Iraqi Kurds. We protested to the MCC that Turkey is bombing our villages, but we have had no response."

Ankara wants to root out PKK fighters from mountain hideouts in Iraq used to launch raids on southeast Turkey such as one which killed 11 Turkish soldiers near Cukurca on Oct. 7.

But relief workers are hard pressed to understand why bombing targets included villages such as Banik and Begova.

An estimated 600 Kurds had returned to Banik in recent months, but all of them fled after the Turkish raids.

"The Turks may be trying to discourage resettlement near the border because they think the villages will support PKK activity in the future," one Western aid worker said. "Or it could be a simple electioneering move."

Turkey's ruling Motherland Party, facing general elections Sunday, has been unable to stop violence in the southeast or urban guerrilla attacks elsewhere in the country.

Five Turkish policemen were shot dead by gunmen in Istanbul last week. On Sunday night, a retired Turkish general and former army chief of staff was killed at his home in Istanbul.

The U.S. commander of allied forces patrolling northern Iraq, Major-General James Jamerson, said Monday the Turkish attacks made the task harder, but he made clear it was not part of his mission to protest.

"Our job is to keep the peace and order equated lined up from the Iraqi perspective. When other events take place, you just have to deal with them," he told Reuters.

4.5 million at risk from starvation

NAIROBI (R) — Fighting in Somalia has put 4.5 million people at risk from starvation, and unless the security situation improves it will be impossible to distribute food aid, the United Nations food agency said Tuesday.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) cited Somalia and Sudan as the African countries worst hit by food shortages, with recent unrest in Zaïre adding it to the list of those affected.

"The situation in Somalia is critical and alarming," the FAO said in its quarterly report on Africa's food aid needs.

"The nation has been left in ruins and health care and water supply systems are virtually nonexistent. An estimated 4.5 million people are at serious risk and human suffering and loss of life from starvation continue."

Rebels overthrew the dictatorship of Mohammed Siad Barre last January. But clan-based fighting continued and an interim government in Mogadishu has been unable to restore peace.

The FAO said U.N. organisations and other charities had had to withdraw from central and southern Somalia.

It said some 560,000 tonnes of cereal would be needed for the year from July 1991 to fill the food gap.

But unless the security situation improved, "assistance on this scale cannot be distributed and even greater suffering and loss of life seem inevitable in the coming months," it said.

The report also singled out Sudan as a desperate case, with people dying of starvation in parts of Darfur province and some areas cut off because of flooding.

Airlifting of food had to be increased, the report said, adding that food was critically scarce in the south, where fighters of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are battling the Khartoum government.

Little food aid had reached needy people in the south because of logistical problems, it said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak: Iraqis should topple Saddam

PARIS (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in a television interview broadcast Tuesday, said the Iraqi people should overthrow President Saddam Hussein or suffer the consequences. "It is up to the Iraqi people to decide who should be their president," Mr. Mubarak told the pan-European Channel TV-5. "If the Iraqi people want to keep this regime in power, they must suffer the consequences because we cannot help people who don't want to help themselves." Egypt condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last year and sent 35,000 troops to help the western allies to oust Iraqi troops from the emirate. "We have no confidence in the present Iraqi government. I don't believe one word of their declarations," Mr. Mubarak said. "I have advised them sincerely on how to avoid the present situation but unfortunately they responded in an odious way."

Summer time ends in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Clocks were turned back an hour Wednesday, ending daylight saving summer time in Lebanon. Beirut local time is now two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

Kahane group on rampage

NEW YORK (R) — About five supporters of assassinated Jewish extremist Meir Kahane disrupted a news conference given by lawyers for his alleged killer on Tuesday as the lawyers said they had evidence El Sayid Nosair was innocent. Witnesses said one Kahane supporter charged the podium where defence lawyer William Kunstler stood, while the others turned over chairs and shouted "justice" and "never again." A security guard for the lawyers then drew a pistol and opened the door of the room at the Hilton Hotel before order was restored. No shots were fired. Police were called to the scene. Mr. Kunstler and two associates called the news conference to present evidence they said would exonerate Mr. Nosair. They said their evidence indicated that Kahane, the founder of the Jewish defence league who wanted Arabs expelled from Israel, was killed by someone in his own organisation. They said an examination of an amateur videotape made on the night of the killing would show that a tall, thin man — not their client — shot a postal worker after Kahane was assassinated and may have killed Kahane.

Baghdad office for Arab group

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government has ordered a headquarters in Baghdad for an Arab group which backs its opposition to world trade

sanctions. The Iraqi president decreed a building "be kept for the headquarters of the general secretariat of the popular Arab Forces" movement, the Iraqi news agency (INA) said on Tuesday. The movement is a loose grouping of trade union groups and intellectual organisations from Arab countries. The group is seeking to mobilise opinion in the Arab world against U.N. trade sanctions, even in those countries whose governments abide by them. The announcement follows the conclusion at the weekend of the first meeting of the group since the Gulf war ended in February. Delegates said the conference grouped representatives from 17 Arab states, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Rebels rake mail train in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Kurdish separatists raked a mail train with gunfire in southeastern Turkey Tuesday in their first attack since Turkish forces attacked their bases in Iraq at the weekend, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said. No one was hurt and the guerrillas escaped in the dark, the agency added. Turkey sent troops, planes and helicopters into Iraq after the separatists killed 21 Turkish soldiers last week. More than 3,000 people have been killed in southeastern Turkey since the rebel Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) launched its military campaign for independence seven years ago.

Blasts in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — Bombs exploded at a campaign office of the ruling Motherland Party and a police station in Istanbul early Wednesday, causing damage but no casualties, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said. There were no claims of responsibility for the blasts at the election campaign office in the working-class district of Gungoren and a police station in the Kagithane district near the Golden Horn sea inlet. Istanbul security officials have said they expect a surge in violence ahead of next Sunday's parliamentary elections. The urban guerrilla group Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left), which is active in Istanbul, said it was behind the killing of five policemen and a retired army general in the city last week. Istanbul, Turkey's biggest city with eight million inhabitants, has only 3,500 policemen on duty at any given time, top security officials say.

Algeria arrests smugglers

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian police seized 73 donkeys and seven lorries and arrested 20 people near the Moroccan frontier in raids to crack a food-smuggling operation, the evening newspaper Horizon said. Witnesses said 150 tonnes of sugar were moved in one smuggling trip. Other contraband seized in raids on smugglers' depots included tonnes of flour, butter, eggs — and a consignment of school exercise books.

Algeria sets election date but doubt remains on who will vote

ALGIERS (Agencies) — President Chadli Benjedid has set a new date for Algeria's first multi-party general election but it is not clear how many voters will take part.

President Benjedid said Tuesday night the poll, postponed from June after Islamic fundamentalist violence, would be on Dec. 26.

But the biggest opposition party, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), has indicated it may not take part — casting doubt on how representative the election will be.

Mr. Benjedid said the poll must be held without intimidation and recalled that "extremism in expression and sometimes recourse to violence... made people fear for the newly-emerging democracy."

"The referee's whistle," the newspaper Le Matin on Wednesday termed his announcement.

His signal for polling stations to open across the vast country, stretching from Saharan desert to cities on the Mediterranean, marks an abrupt transformation for Algeria's 26 million people.

From last June to September, tanks and troops ruled the streets — sent in when President Benjedid decreed a state of siege after the violence. In three months time, 53 political parties will have chance to woo voters.

One Western diplomat said after the parliamentary vote he feared a repetition of the cycle of protest which derailed the original election schedule.

The FIS is now committed to a harder line. It wants a fundamentalist state ruled by Islamic Sharia law.

President Benjedid issued this warning in his 13-minute address to the nation:

"Since the doors of democracy

are open to everyone, the people will not accept and the state will not tolerate from anyone irresponsible behaviour which is outside the constitution and law."

"Islam must never become a factor of destruction and disunion," he said, adding that "multi-partyism will not bear fruit unless the actions of everyone are stamped with a sense of responsibility."

Mr. Benjedid's appearance on national television was his first since declaring the state of emergency June 5.

Mr. Benjedid then dissolved the government and ordered a crackdown on members of the FIS, jailing its top leaders.

There was no immediate reaction from the front.

President Benjedid has promised early presidential elections, while the new prime minister Sidahmad Ghazali, said the postponed June 27 elections would be held before the end of the year.

The four-month state of emergency was lifted Sept. 29.

The FIS, which won municipal elections in June 1990, carried out a series of strikes and protests that paralysed the capital and ended in bloody confrontations with security forces.

The government says that 55 people were killed and about 3,000 arrested. Human rights groups and others say that up to 300 people were killed.

The fundamentalist protests were aimed at changing the electoral law voted in April by the FIS, which has ruled Algeria since independence from France in 1962 and monopolises the parliament.

The electoral law, a response to the fundamentalist victory the year before, clearly favours the FIS, according to critics and

observers.

On Monday, the National Assembly, made up solely of members of the FIS, drastically amended a new electoral law designed to satisfy some of the complaints.

The law, as it stands, still favours the FIS at the expense of the front. It increases the parliament from 295 to 373 seats and redraws electoral districts.

It maintains a man's right to vote in place of his wife, a right that favours both the fundamentalists and the FIS whose strength now lies in mainly rural districts.

The government wanted either husband or wife to have to provide written authority for a proxy vote.

At a cabinet meeting Tuesday, the government said it wanted the constitutional council to rule on this, the Algerian news agency APS said.

Mr. Benjedid said that the role of the woman must not "become a subject of false debate... and a source of discord and polemics."

The setting of an election date could break a growing governmental crisis, compounded by Mr. Ghazali's failure to pass his election law.

Many of the 50 political parties which have sprouted up in Algeria since pluralism was incorporated in the constitution three years ago have been pressing for an election date, and for Mr. Benjedid to take some kind of action.

Algeria was pushed into the democratic process by riots in October 1988 that left hundreds dead. The FIS was formed in 1989. It's president, Abassi Madani, and vice president, Ali Belhadj, who went on a hunger strike Sept. 7, have been transferred from the Blida military prison



Chadli Benjedid

to hospitals.

The FIS has said it did not recognise the proxy vote ruling passed by parliament.

In Algeria's male-dominated society the law means the man will vote, a provision denounced by women's movements as unconstitutional and undemocratic.

The FIS has said it might boycott elections unless its leaders were freed first.

A defence request for their provisional release was turned down this month.

Newspapers on Wednesday questioned whether the election would resolve anything.

Le Matin said impoverished Algerians would vote because they had to, "without conviction, without passion and with the certainty that the elections will arrange nothing significant in a life already marked by difficult social outlook."

In his address Tuesday, Mr. Benjedid flanked by the Algerian flag, said the doors to democracy were open and called on "all the country's sons to use their constitutional right in full freedom and with full responsibility."

Recalling the unrest which forced him to introduce a state of siege in June, the president said some people had "turned to violence... so that citizens were afraid for the future of democracy and stability."

Israel presses for repeal of U.N. resolution on Zionism

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Israel Tuesday urged a key U.N. committee to work towards repeal of the 1975 General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism.

"Zionism is the antithesis of racism and the salvation of the Jews from repeated persecution and murder," said Ambassador Asher Naim of the Israeli delegation to the General Assembly.

He said, "Zionism is colour-blind."

Mr. Naim spoke to the Third Committee of the General Assembly, which makes recommendations to the full body on resolutions concerning social issues.

Israeli diplomats said Mr. Naim's remarks did not constitute a formal request for the committee to take action on repealing the anti-Zionism resolution. They said that could come later during the General Assembly session.

It was the Third Committee in 1975 that recommended approval of the resolution describing Zionism as a form of racism.

Last month, U.S. President George Bush and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankov both told the General Assembly that their countries would support efforts to repeal the anti-Zionism resolution.

Israeli and U.S. diplomats, who have been quietly canvassing votes for repeal, say there is easily a majority for overturning the 1975 resolution, one of the

most controversial in U.S. history.

Many of the former communist nations of Eastern Europe and some developing nations have said they will support repeal of the resolution they originally supported.

Arab states, meanwhile, have been trying to delay any drive to repeal the resolution until they know how effective the proposed Middle East peace conference will be.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa has said that the issue should not be raised before a peace conference because a divisive debate at this time would spoil the atmosphere and undermine prospects for peacemaking.

If a resolution is proposed to repeal the anti-Zionism resolution, Arab states say they are prepared to submit a counterproposal for deferral and to require a two-thirds majority in the 166-nation General Assembly for repeal.

The original resolution was approved by a vote of 72-35, with 32 abstentions in what was then a 142-member General Assembly.

But repeal could be stalled by several Arab diplomats holding key positions. The president of the General Assembly is Samir Shihabi, the Saudi Arabian ambassador, and Yemeni Ambassador Abdullah Saleh Al Ashtal is head of the Third Committee.

U.S. said not to reaffirm 1983 pact with Israel over Lebanon

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. signed a secret written memorandum of understanding in 1983 that supported special Israeli security privileges in Lebanon, but Israel is dissatisfied that Secretary of State James Baker has refused to reaffirm this, The Jerusalem Post reported Wednesday.

Mr. Baker has not reaffirmed the 1983 memorandum in drafts of his letter of assurance to Israel it said.

U.S. officials refused comment.

"The U.S. explicitly committed itself in writing to a few things," a well-informed government source told the Post. "Among other things, it committed itself to Israeli flights in the skies over Lebanon, naval patrols of the Lebanese coast as part of our security arrangements in Lebanon, and that Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon only occur in parallel to a Syria withdrawal from the country."

The U.S. secret understanding with Israel was undertaken by the Reagan administration and accompanied Israel's signing of the aborted May 17, 1983, peace agreement with Lebanon, the government source said.

"The U.S. does not want to reaffirm its commitment, because the whole exercise of issuing letters of assurance are done to give Baker as free a hand as possible, and not tie American hands once the peace talks get underway," an official said.

"The U.S. promised its support in the past, and we want them just to reaffirm what they are already committed to, but they refuse to do so," one source said.

Israeli officials are expected to raise this issue with Mr. Baker, to see if this could be included in the final version of Mr. Baker's letter of assurances. Overall, officials have termed the most recent draft of the letter an "improvement," the Post reported.

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"The U.S. does not want to reaffirm its commitment, because the whole exercise of issuing letters of assurance are done to give Baker as free a hand as possible, and not tie American hands once the peace talks get underway," an official said.

CONDOLENCES

Members and families of the Italian Women Association (D.I.G.) share the grief with Marcella and Tawfik Nazzari for the loss of Ibrahim Anton Nazzari and extend their condolences to the Nazzari family

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Lolo et les Sardines
19:30 Maguy
19:50 News in French
19:15 Claque
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:10 Sound of Terror
22:00 News in English
22:20 "A Summer story"

PRAYER TIMES

06:19 Fair
05:36 (Sunrise) Doha
14:35 Dhahr
17:06 Maghreb
18:23 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeh
Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel.
637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel.
625543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261.
St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751.
Assunta International Church Tel.
827981, 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932.
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

A rise in temperature will occur and
winds will be northwesterly moderate.
In Amman, winds will be northerly fresh
and sea calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp.
15 / 26
Aqaba 21 / 32
Deserts 14 / 28
Jordan Valley 19 / 33

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Farouq Hussein 786680
Dr. Isam Al Anwar 890504
Dr. Mohammad Azam 819925
Dr. Fakhri Abu Tayeb 885380
Fina pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 78336
Al Asana pharmacy 637053
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660

JERUSALEM:
Dr. Mazen Jounieh (-)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Randa Shain (-)
Khalifa pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 631111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 80402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 877467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 677111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldat Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Jahat Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 6641714
Sheikhout Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Musannad Hospital 6672279
Al-Habib, Abdali 66512757
Al-Abdi, Abdali 6641646
Istisra, Al-Musannad 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Amn. 89161115
Qorqa Al-Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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Airport Tel. (09)53200

Bani Hamida crafts on display in Finland

HELSINKI (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal Wednesday opened an exhibition of woven products by bedouin villages in Jordan during a special ceremony to display Jordanian handicrafts to the public in Finland.

Most of the items exhibited in Helsinki consisted of woven bedouin rugs and cushions produced by women of the Bani Hamida tribe, south of Madaba, some 15 kilometres South West of Amman.

A group of dignitaries, including officials from Finland and the president of the republic of Lithuania, were present at the opening ceremony.

According to the Jordan News Agency Petra, the exhibition aims at promoting the marketing of Jordanian tourist sites and products in European countries.

In the Bani Hamida bedouin villages, located on a hilly area overlooking the Dead Sea, women practise the rug-weaving craft, a heritage passed down from mother to daughter for centuries as spinners, dyers, loomsetters and weavers.

The women produce weavings of 100 per cent sheep wool in both traditional and contemporary colours and designs which appeal to both foreigners and Jordanian citizens.

The whole project is run by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHIF) which backs the local women in their drive to increase family income.

The project started in 1985 with only five women, but hundreds of bedouin women have joined, earning a steady income.

The home-based weaving project is designed to make use of the women's centuries-old craft while allowing them to continue their household duties and to care for their children at the same time.

NHIF said that the Bani Hamida weavers represent the first step in projects it is undertaking with the Save the Children Fund in Jordan towards the preservation and promotion of local crafts as a profitable cottage industry for low-income families.

Following the ceremony, Prince Faisal met the Finnish president and conveyed to him greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian people to the people of Finland.

Church council meets, calls for end to 'oppression' of Palestinian people

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) Executive Committee, which held its first meeting since the Gulf war in Cyprus, issued a statement expressing hope that the proposed peace process will be based on justice and that it will remove the oppression and restore dignity and national rights to the Palestinian people. The executive committee, which discussed the plight of refugees from the Gulf war, studied reports on humanitarian assistance in the region.

Following are major excerpts of the committee statement issued at the end of the Oct. 10 to Oct. 15 meeting:

The twenty four members representing nearly all 14 million Christians in the Middle East reviewed the ongoing post-Gulf war developments in the region. They highlighted the responsibility of the churches in helping secure peace with justice in Palestine, Lebanon and Cyprus. The committee discussed whether the proposed New World Order will lead to real lasting peace, or whether its imported nature can only drive the region into a renewed cycle of violence and destabilization.

The Executive Committee members concluded their deliberations with a statement on the proposed Middle East peace conference. They prayed that the proposed peace process should be based on justice and will remove the yoke of oppression and will restore dignity as well as national rights to the Palestinians and real peace to all peoples in the region including Lebanon and Cyprus.

The meeting also emphasized that the churches consider Jerusalem as a central focus of their Middle Eastern spiritual heritage and that any peaceful solution should consider Jerusalem as the cradle of all three monotheistic religions which are concerned equally with its destiny as the City of Peace.

The Executive Committee also discussed the plight of refugees resulting from the Gulf war and reviewed the MECC programme of relief and humanitarian assistance region-wide.

Section of Dead Sea road inaugurated

AMMAN (J.T.) — Section 4 of the Amman-Na'ur-Dead Sea road, stretching from the village of Adassiyah to the Kafra crossroads, is officially open to traffic. The 19-kilometre stretch of road was Wednesday inaugurated by Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Sarour and the American Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison. The ceremony was also attended by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Kabarti, and senior officials from the Ministry of Public Works and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The 31-kilometre Amman-Na'ur-Dead Sea road will be constructed at a cost of about JD 22.5 million. USAID is contributing \$25 million as a grant to Jordan to defray about three quarter of the total cost.

Section 1 of this road, a stretch of six kilometres, was completed and opened to traffic in 1989. Sections 2 and 3, stretching from Dar Al Dawa and passing through Adassiyah, are still under construction.

Upon completion, the new highway will eliminate the dangerous curves along the present road and contribute to safer driving, particularly since landslides have been a major problem in winter. The highway is designed to accommodate heavy traffic and will thus ease the congestion on this vital highway and facilitate the transportation of Jordan Valley produce to the capital and other Jordanian cities.

Exhibition to display handicapped children's work

AMMAN (Petra) — Handicrafts by handicapped children cared for by the Ministry of Social Development rehabilitation centres will go on display at a general exhibition that will be held at King Abdullah Park in Amman Saturday under the patronage of Prime Minister Taher Masri.

The exhibition is aimed at drawing the Jordanian public's attention to the importance of social work in the development and construction process in Jordan, said a ministry official Wednesday.

Products by the handicapped children prove that the handicapped can be helped to earn their own living and become useful members of the community, he said.

The exhibition is a means to open the way for handicapped people to market their products in Jordan, the official added.

Quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the ministry official said that the exhibition will display a number of crafts by the children coming from the ministry's various centres as well as embroideries, traditional costumes, tricot, furniture, garments, paintings and photographs among other handicrafts from centres run by voluntary societies.

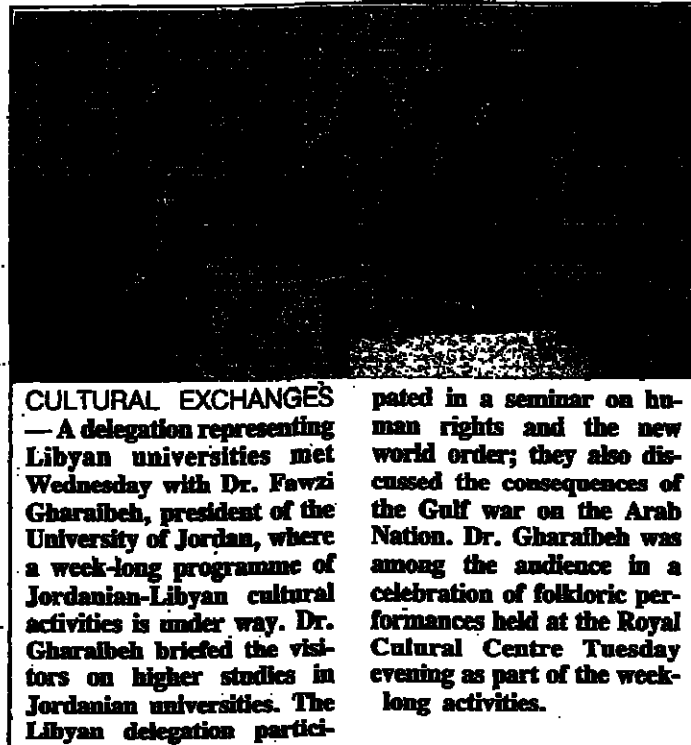
The official said that the exhibition aims at attracting as many Jordanian visitors as possible who can buy displayed items, thus opening the way to create job opportunities for unemployed people.

Office Building For Rent

Commercial office building for rent. Consists of 3 storeys, each of 400 square metres in area. Two storeys are divided into two sections and the third one is undivided section; with a lift, central heating, and separate water and electricity meters. Ideal for large companies and banks. Could be rented each floor separately or preferably as a whole.

Location: Dahyat Al Rabla over Al Rabia Bakery, Al Qabas Bookstore and Amra Supermarket.

For details please contact Al Qabas Bookstore, the same building, tel. 679551



Minister: Kingdom better equipped to attract GCC countries' tourists

AMMAN (J.T.) — At least 405,000 visitors came to Jordan from the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in 1990, many of them staying at tourist attraction sites and holiday facilities, according to Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti.

The Kingdom is now better equipped to offer visitors a variety of services like the therapeutic centres at the spas, numerous areas for sightseeing like the Dead Sea and Aqaba, archaeological areas that spot the country and educational services represented in five private universities including one solely for girls, said the minister during a meeting with a group of journalists and directors of travel and tourist offices in Bahrain.

Referring to the strong ties binding Jordan with Bahrain, the minister said that the group's visit was bound to contribute most positively towards further bolstering of relations, especially in the economic and touristic fields.

Jordan has hopes that differences will end and strong relations will be restored among Arab states, he added.

Jordan has maintained very strong ties with the Bahraini people over the past decades and the Jordanian government attaches hopes to enhancing such a relationship despite the present situation in the Arab World, the minister said.

The Bahraini group, which represents 10 major tourist offices in Bahrain, and includes a team of three journalists, were invited for a week-long stay in Jordan by the Ministry of Tourism and Royal Jordanian (RJ) Airlines, the national air carrier.

The group members are being accompanied on various touristic facilities in the country.



Members of Jordanian media Tuesday tour Jordan University of Science and Technology

(Photo by Yousef Afailan)

Jordanian media tours JUST

IRBID (J.T.) — A delegation representing the Jordanian media Tuesday visited the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The delegation was briefed by JUST President Kamel Al Ajlouni on the university's establishment. Dr. Ajlouni said a Royal decree was issued Sept. 1, 1986 ordering the establishment of JUST in the place of the permanent campus of Yarmouk University. He said seven faculties were transferred from Yarmouk University to JUST.

In 1986, the university admitted 450 students and the number of students rose to 4,000 in 1991. Dr. Ajlouni said. He added that the university now has 273 professors, compared to 110 in 1987.

This year, Dr. Ajlouni said, the university admitted twice the number it admitted last year.

He said the university welcomes citizens and Parliament members who want to visit the university to discuss issues of concern to it, its student or the local society.

"The area surrounding the university is populated by about one million people and providing services to them requires plans which can be provided by the university instead of (the central administration in) Amman," he said.

The JUST president also reviewed the problem of water in the university and said the university had found proper solutions to this problem.

After the briefing by Dr. Ajlouni, the delegation members watched a film on the university's engineering facilities.

The delegation then toured the university and several projects in it and met with JUST vice-president Saad Hijazi and Fayed Khawwneh as well as the deans and several staff members.

The delegation comprised Al Rayed Editor Mahmoud Al Kayed, Jordan Press Association President Hashem Khreisat, who is also chief editor of Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily, Jordan Television Director Ibrahim Shabzada, Al Liwa newspaper editor Hassan Al Tal, Jordan Times Chief Editor George Hawatmeh, Jordan Times Opinion Editor Ica Wabbeh and other journalists.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- EXHIBITIONS**
- ★ Art exhibition by Abdul Rauf Shamsoun, Khalid Khreis and Mohammad Hussein Abdullah at Abdul Hussein Shoman Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 8 p.m.)
 - ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Yarmouk University.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Jalous at the French Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Exhibition of ceramics and rugs produced by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) Income generating projects at the Marriott Hotel.
- FILMS**
- ★ Feature film entitled "Mr. Smith goes to Washington" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY + P.A.

To work full time for the General Manager of a leading Industrial Company in Amman.

Qualifications:

1. Jordanian nationality with a university degree.
2. Minimum five years experience in a similar position and office management.
3. Excellent command of the English language.

High salary for high qualifications.

C.V. with photo to be sent to P.O. Box 1368-Amman.

Government pledges to help implement expatriates' projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif Wednesday voiced the Jordanian government's full backing of the activities of a follow-up committee representing expatriates returning from the Gulf countries and urged the committee members to implement the expatriates' General Assembly meeting resolutions.

The committee was set up at the General Assembly meeting which was concluded at Amra Hotel Tuesday, with the delegates issuing a set of recommendations and resolutions which they entrusted to the committee to follow up.

The committee briefed the minister on the resolutions and plan of action in the coming



Mahmoud Al Sharif

stage.

Committee members requested that the Ministry of Information and the Jordanian media in general exert particular efforts designed to improve and bolster ties between Jordan and the Gulf Arab states with a view to safeguarding the interests of all concerned parties.

Mr. Sharif said that the government was backing the committee's endeavours and was keen on improving relations with Arab states under the current difficult circumstances.

The General Assembly of the expatriates has endorsed plans to set up a housing committee to help set up housing units for the expatriates, create multi-purpose cooperative societies to take care of the affairs of the expatriates and to set up specialised committees that would look into helping returnees embark on investments in economic and industrial projects and other areas.

The committee, formed by the General Assembly, said that it would seek to pursue efforts to enable the expatriates to launch joint ventures and would follow up a course of action designed to end differences between Jordan and the Gulf states.

Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, who stood in at the meeting for Prime Minister Taher Masri, said that the Jordanian government would back all efforts to help the expatriates execute industrial and agricultural projects in the Kingdom.

Psychotherapist to hold healing workshops

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Workshops "on bridging the differences between people" will be held by an American transpersonal psychotherapist today, Saturday and Monday at the National Centre for Psychological and Educational Consultation (Al Maw'el).

The workshops, to be conducted by Roberta Roth, will explore the relationship between

emotions and judgments to physical disease. The session will also focus on the inner spirit and how to tap into and channel one's energies for personal growth, healing, harmony and balance in life.

Ms. Roth, seeks to integrate the wisdom of ancient traditions and personal histories with current living.

"You can never forget the past, but what you do is bring the good from the past to the present and learn from the mistakes of the past," Ms. Roth, who has worked in human services since 1963, told the Jordan Times.

Visiting Jordan at the height of the Gulf crisis and witnessing the human suffering of the evacuees, Ms. Roth wrote many articles citing the effects of the Gulf war on the Kingdom. In one of her articles, Ms. Roth wrote "turn apathy into action" and this is what she hopes to accomplish through the workshop sessions.

Amnesty International holds series of events to educate public

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Commemorating the 31st anniversary of the London-based international human rights organisation Amnesty International (AI), an exhibition of posters and paintings was inaugurated Tuesday at the start of a three-day celebration.

The paintings are designed to tell the story of AI's work throughout the world and inform the public of the organisation's activities in Jordan.

On Wednesday, the group hosted a conference held by a Sudanese member of the International Secretariat of AI and a professor of law at Yarmouk University. The focus of discussion was on human rights and international and regional conventions.

Today, the last day of the exhibition, there will be songs and music by Jordanian folkloric groups.

"The aim is to seize the opportunity on this occasion and let the public know what AI's objectives are, how it works and how one becomes a member," said Suleiman Sweiss, coordinator of the Amman AI group.

So far, there are about five groups of AI members in Amman and two groups in Irbid. There are about 10 members in each group.

Although AI in Jordan is still in its embryonic phase, it has been spirited in its activities, Mr. Sweiss told the Jordan Times.

"The most successful campaign we have launched so far has been defending prisoners of conscience in Morocco," he said.

According to AI, in the 1970's demonstrations against government policies in Morocco were met by widespread arrests. Some of those sentenced to prison are still incarcerated.

AI in Jordan wrote letters last year against the detention of 40 prisoners in Morocco. About 24 were liberated last year. Mr. Sweiss said.

"One of the tasks of the AI group now is to form a set of internal regulations on the basis of human rights which will be presented to the Ministry of Interior, once we have official authorisation," he said.

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement independent of any government, political persuasion or religion. It plays a role in the international protection of human rights by seeking the release of prisoners of conscience, which it defines as prisoners who have not used or advocated violence.

It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and it opposes the death penalty and torture or other similar treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation.

AI issues reports on political imprisonment, torture and execution around the world.

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Nobel Foundation deserves prize in economics

By Randall Mikkelsen
Reuter

STOCKHOLM — The charitable foundation administering the prestigious annual Nobel awards is so successful that it almost deserves a prize in economics itself.

After decades of rebuilding the eroded endowment of industrialist Alfred Nobel, the Nobel Foundation was able to raise the 1991 awards by half to six million Swedish crowns — about one million dollars — in each of the six categories.

That is roughly equivalent to the value in real terms of the awards when they were first given in 1901, and com-

pared with 450,000 crowns 20 years ago, which was all the inflation-and-tax depleted endowment could sustain.

"We lost two-thirds of the capital's worth in the first 50 years. We have now recovered all the losses," foundation Executive Director Baron Stig Ramel said in an interview.

The Nobel Prize season began on Oct. 3, with the awarding of the prize for literature to South African novelist Nadine Gordimer and concluded with the physics and chemistry prizes announced on Oct. 16. Other categories were medicine or physiology, peace and econo-

mics.

Baron Ramel said the endowment is now worth 1.7 billion crowns (about \$275 million), 70 per cent more in real terms than the estate Alfred Nobel left to endow the prizes when he died in 1896.

The rebuilding of the endowment has enabled the foundation to safeguard the prestige of the Nobel Prize, and has enabled some award winners to become donors themselves, Baron Ramel said.

Twenty years ago, "a lot of awards went to building a new roof on the house or buying a new car, but now the award has gotten so big

that many feel they should do something more with it," Baron Ramel said.

"Many prize winners think that this is such a fantastic lot of money, that they start their own foundations, which in turn give scholarships for young researchers," Baron Ramel said.

"In that way, we have gotten an echo effect of the Nobel Prize," Baron Ramel said. Prize winners are exempt from income taxes in all countries except the United States, he said.

The endowment began to erode soon after Nobel's death due to high inflation in the two world wars and a

restrictive investment policy that let the foundation invest only in government bonds.

The awards value shrank from 150,000 crowns the first year to an all-time low of 115,000 in 1923, and grew little in the next three decades.

In 1953 the foundation's statutes were changed, permitting it to invest in stocks and real estate and freeing it from the low returns of government bonds.

Baron Ramel said the endowment grew rapidly in the soaring financial markets of the 1980s and the foundation chose the right time to shift into more secure investments.

In particular, the foundation in 1990 completed a sell-off of a real estate firm for 702 million crowns (\$114 million at current rates), doubling its capital base and just escaping a virtual collapse of prices on the Stockholm Property Market.

"The 1980s were a very successful time for investors. The 1990s will be harder. We were lucky enough to take home profits while they still were profits," Baron Ramel said.

Comparing the foundation's performance with that of other investors, Baron Ramel said it has some unique advantages, including an

exemption granted in 1946 from national income taxes and an independence that allows it to invest for long-term performance.

"We don't have the same pressure as some other investors who need immediate results," he said.

The endowment now is invested 20 per cent in Swedish shares, 40 per cent in government and corporate fixed-income securities, 10 per cent in real estate, and 30 per cent in foreign investments, mostly securities.

The foundation has no ties to Sweden's Nobel Industrier AB, an arms-to-chemicals firm which has roots in Alfred Nobel's industrial

empire and which is currently ensnared in financial and ownership difficulties.

Baron Ramel said the prestige of the Nobel Prizes had survived the erosion of the monetary value.

But he said the prizes eventually could have lost their appeal had the reward remained low. "A great prize should also be big in money terms," he said.

"If it had great prestige, but the award was low, then the Japanese or Americans might have come along and launched a new prize that was larger in money, and we could have been in danger," Baron Ramel added.

Garcia Marquez still productive after winning Nobel

By John Wright
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who has been prolific for nearly a decade since winning the Nobel Prize, says he needs to take time off.

"I'm writing a novel and my memoirs at the same time. But I'm very busy with other things now and I'm taking a break from literature," said the 63-year-old author, who's often tied up with films, lecturing and essay writing.

Chances are it won't be much of a break. Since claiming literature's most prestigious award in 1982, the Col-

ombian author has written three novels and various screenplays, plus hundreds of essays and columns appearing in Latin American newspapers and magazines.

The author — who popularised and refined "magical realism" — has influenced a generation of Latin American writers and helped create a market for their work in North America and Europe.

Isabel Allende of Chile, Luis Brito Garcia of Venezuela and Carlos Fuentes of Mexico all have credited Garcia Marquez with being a major influence on their literary achievements.

In Garcia Marquez's work, fantastic events seem credible: People fly, live scores of

years without losing their youth, perform magic deeds ... amnesia can settle over a whole village. By subtly juxtaposing the incredible with the everyday, all this somehow comes to seem normal.

His best-known novel, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, is full of strange phenomena: It rains for four years, 11 months and two days; a priest levitates when he drinks hot chocolate; yellow flowers fall from the sky when the local patriarch dies; and a girl ascends into heaven along with her bed sheets.

He once told an interviewer his secret for making these events fit together: "For magical realism to

work, you always need to give concrete details. Once I made a priest fly. But my problem was how to make it believable. Then, I came up with the solution. I made the priest fly and at the same time, drink a cup of hot chocolate. Believe me, without my priest drinking a cup of hot chocolate — a very concrete fact — nobody would have believed that he was able to fly."

The author credits Cuban novelist Alejo Carpentier and fellow Colombian Jorge Zalamea, author of the magnificent satire *The Great Burundia Burundia Is Dead*, with planting the seeds of magical realism that the later

harvested.

He also credits his environment. "Surrealism comes from the reality of Latin America," he said, alluding to the rampant poverty and political instability in the region.

Garcia Marquez was interviewed in August when he was guest of honour at New York's 1991 Latin Film Festival. He didn't attend the inaugural festivities, however, because about 50 chanting anti-Castro protesters blocked his path.

Detractors condemn Garcia Marquez's friendship with Cuban President Fidel Castro. He is president of the Foundation For New Latin American Cinema, a film

school outside Havana.

For the past three decades, he has called Mexico City his home but recently has been returning more often to his native Colombia, where violence appears to be diminishing under President Cesar Gaviria's new policies, which encourage drug lords and leftist guerrillas to lay down their arms.

Still, Garcia Marquez won't commit to returning permanently. Most of his novels take place in his homeland, although he hasn't lived there in 33 years.

"It's good for a writer to distance himself from his own country because it gives him a perspective that he doesn't

have inside his country," he said. "Writers almost always try to look at their country from outside, from afar."

His stories are chaotic, bizarre, fertile with detail, harshly critical of military dictators, even somewhat grotesque. But what he writes from afar always goes back to the one simple, central theme of his roots, he said.

His works always explore "the search for identity for who we are, what makes us distinctly Latin Americans," he said. "I never find the answer, because the day I find it, I won't write anymore. I'd rather not find it and go on looking for it."



Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Leisure patterns to change as Japan discovers 'the weekend'

By Yoko Kobayashi
Reuter

TOKYO — The Japanese invented karaoke, the bullet train, the Sony Walkman and a host of other things to enhance modern life.

Now they are about to discover...the weekend.

With Tokyo set on introducing a mandatory five-day working week for public employees, perhaps by the middle of next year, leisure should take on a whole new meaning for a nation where the workaholic has held sway in recent decades.

Japan's stringent work ethic and six-day work week helped the country grow into an economic superpower.

Now things are changing, analysts say. Foreign pressures and a younger generation refusing to bow to the same constraints mean the inexorable spread of the five-day week.

By December 1990 about two thirds of private firms had brought in a five-day week at least once a month, according to a Labour Ministry survey. Of these companies, 11.5 per cent operated the system every week.

The trend has touched the public sector. Last year a number of offices began taking some Saturdays off.

Now the government plans to go all the way. It is weighing the introduction of a standard five-day working week for all government institutions, including schools and hospitals, as early as the first half of next year.

"There are views (in the government) that we should set an example," said a Welfare Ministry official.

According to a report by the Leisure Development

With Tokyo set on introducing a mandatory five-day working week for public employees, perhaps by the middle of next year, leisure should take on a whole new meaning for a nation where the workaholic has held sway in recent decades.

Centre, a foundation linked to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the five-day week will bring nothing short of a social revolution.

The Japanese will no longer see a day off each week as a privilege, graciously conceded from the all-important working week.

"People will begin thinking that it's abnormal not to be able to rest on weekends," said Yuji Fukuda of the Demos Institute for Human Studies.

The foundation's report said that while Japanese will now have time to develop their interests and abilities, some will feel free to pursue leisure for pure enjoyment.

The Leisure Development Centre predicted people would be able to take short vacations during the year by linking paid holidays to weekends, increasing demand for leisure facilities.

According to the Labour Ministry, the average Japanese worker bowed by peer pressure and a heavy work load still takes only eight days paid vacation a year although he has the right to 15.5 days.

With more free time, people would be able to go on weekend camping or hiking trips, or take a foreign break.

There would be time to develop personal relationships, to have friends at home for parties, the foundation report said.

Mr. Fukuda said another significant development for families would be the end of Saturday schooling.

"The fact that children could not take time off from school Saturday has hampered such family pursuits as travelling."

Mr. Fukuda said that as families had more time together, many would acquire second houses within easy driving range of home.

Despite the social benefits, opposition persists to a standard five-day week, especially for hospitals and schools.

"It will mean better working conditions for hospital workers, but there may be a slight drop in services since we have to introduce the system without taking on more staff," a Welfare Ministry official said.

The Education Ministry is experimenting with a five-day week in 68 public schools out of a total of 57,631.

Some parents worry that a shorter school week will lead to lower academic performance. Others fear increased competition for college places as students spend Saturdays at crammers.

Some say schools should wait until the five-day work week is more widely accepted.

"Even if children get Saturdays and Sundays off, it's meaningless if parents don't too," said Harumi Saito, 46.

When the Education Ministry surveyed parents of children at the 68 schools, only 13 per cent favoured a permanent five-day system.

A final decision is due by next March but a ministry official says: "The outlook for complete introduction of a five-day school week (from next April) seems difficult."

Teachers, not surprisingly, would love more time either to relax or study.

"I think we labourers have a right to rest. It's odd that teachers have to work when city administration offices are closed," said Noriko Kikuchi, a 28-year-old English teacher at a private school which switches to a five-day week next April.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Individuals may form committees, but it is institutions alone that create a nation
— Benjamin Disraeli, English statesman (1804-1881).

When you are arguing with a fool, two fools are arguing
— Anonymous.

To keep your character intact you cannot stoop to filthy acts. It makes it easier to stoop the next time
Katherine Hepburn, U.S. actress (1909-).

Concealed talent brings no reputation
— Erasmus, Dutch scholar (about 1466-1536).

People do not lack strength, they lack will
— Victor Hugo, French writer (1802-1885).

Ancient Andean language offers key to world languages

By Paul Mykres
Reuter

LA PAZ, Bolivia — A thousand years after the complex and mysterious civilisation of the Aymara Indians peaked, their language is still spoken by around two million people, most of whom live in the Andean Highlands. The guttural Aymara tongue survived the Inca and Spanish conquests. Now a Bolivian mathematician has discovered that Aymara can be used by computers as a bridge to translate books, documents or even newspapers from one language to another.

In a cramped apartment in this city 3,600 metres (12,000 feet) above sea level, mathematician and inventor Ivan Guzman De Rojas types a

trick sentence into an ordinary personal computer to test his system.

Moments later, the original English sentence "my friend wants to drink a drink" simultaneously appears on the screen in French as "mon ami veut boire une boisson," in German as "mein freund will ein getraenk trinken," and the Spanish "mi amigo quiere beber una bebida."

Six years after producing the prototype, it can already translate between Aymara, English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Dutch, Swedish, Portuguese and Hungarian and Mr. Guzman is close to signing a contract with the French company BULL. But he is still not satisfied.

"My aim is to make the best multilingual translator in the world ... I believe we can reach perfection, where you

only have to change the style and there are no grammatical errors in the computer translation," said Mr. Guzman, son of one of Bolivia's most famous painters.

How has Mr. Guzman solved a problem which has stumped machine translation experts around the world?

He says the secret is the rigid, logical and unambiguous structure of Aymara, ideal for transformation into a computer algorithm.

The computer then uses this formal representation of Aymara as a bridge. The text to be translated is decoded using the Aymara formula and then simultaneously recorded into the desired languages.

"People saw it (translation) as a linguistic problem. But it is a problem of language engineering, how to translate grammar into logarithms which work in a machine," said Mr. Guzman.

The idea came to him as he was teaching mathematics to Aymara children and he began work on a borrowed computer, helped by his wife Gladys Davalos, a trained linguist, and his son, an engineer.

Had he lived in California, Mr. Guzman would probably have been wealthy enough by now to retire on the proceeds of his invention known as Atamiri, the word for interpreter in Aymara.

But despite a contract with the Panama Canal commission, which used his system between 1985 and 1988 to translate documents between English and Spanish in its first commercial test, and an initial research agreement with Wang Laboratories, Mr. Guzman has faced scepticism.

The European Community, which spent several million dollars on a computer translation project without producing a working system, cancelled a meeting with Mr. Guzman when he was flown to Brussels with money from Latin American governments to demonstrate Atamiri.

"Machine translation has a bad history, so much money has been wasted," says Mr. Guzman. "Why pay a mad Bolivian using Aymara who claims he can solve a problem that 11 European universities can't solve?"

To support his family and keep the research going, Mr. Guzman has had to continue working as a consultant in computing accounting systems.

The long haul may be ending. In July, BULL signed a letter of intent to buy the system. Mr. Guzman and BULL are now negotiating a deal.

But Mr. Guzman's dream is not to get rich by selling his invention.

Inspired by the language which gave him his idea, Mr. Guzman would like to dedicate himself to helping the Aymara Indians, most of whom live in poverty on the inhospitable high Andean plain.

With enough money coming in from his translation system, Mr. Guzman says Atamiri could be used to translate news and books into Aymara and even form the basis of a newspaper for the Indians.

Atamiri could then become the saviour of the Aymara language, which has survived 4,000 years but is now being slowly displaced by Spanish.

Job enthusiasm

By Maha Addasi

THE lack of enthusiasm with work has become as popular as unemployment and the two are not so mysteriously tied together. You may have heard of a friend or relative who wants to become a professional ballet dancer only to be leashed by parents who make her study dentistry. Or of the person who wanted to be a teacher, but whose parents insisted he study engineering. The result: unenthusiastic dentists dreaming of pirouetting en point while drilling your molars, and engineers who can barely tolerate their jobs, if they were lucky enough to find employment.

What I am targeting here is not the careers named, but the lack of enthusiasm that ensues when one is forced to do something they have not set out to do. It is true that some children need guidance, and must discuss certain career goals with their parents with whom they could talk about the pros and cons of each choice.

"Son," announces the father. "You will study medicine. Study hard."

I don't know about you but this does not strike me as a guiding discussion.

What about the future after university? Where will the boy practise? What if the son considered medicine but after talking to a practising doctor discovered that he did not picture himself in that field? What happened to discussions where people talked and heard feedback?

Simply put, and difficult as it may seem to believe in our time and age, if a kid, who is let's say a descendant of a family of businessmen, said he wanted to become a carpenter he has a snowball's chance in hell of becoming one.

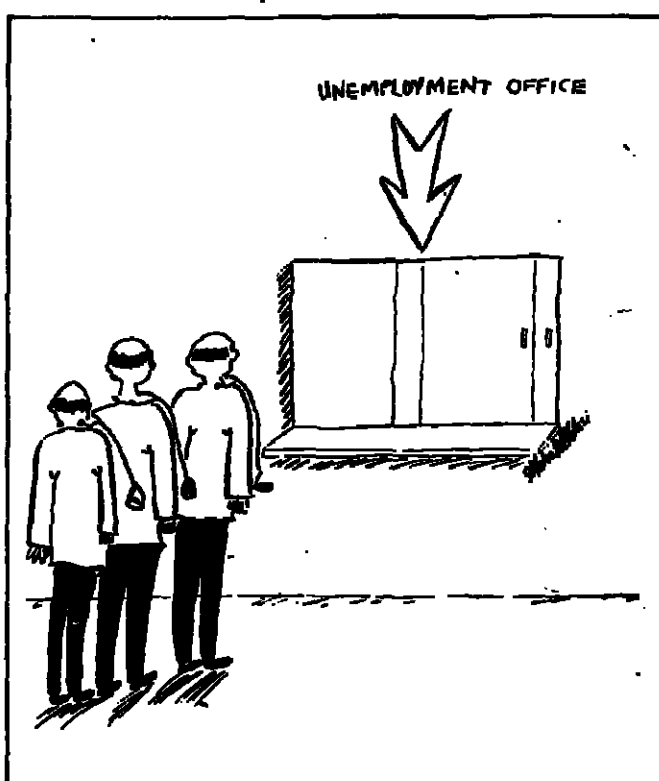
The idea is so out of the question that the father may not even have the maturity of thinking to allow his son a few carpentry classes where the son could see if woodwork is really what he wants to do?

The kid may surprise himself and his father by deciding he could take up carpentry as a hobby and not as a career and also consider his father's suggestion seriously. The suggestion may become appealing to the son. That way when he does study what his father proposed he should, it is also the kid's decision. To the father, this process is "too risky."

Still, I know one person who studied for the degree chosen by his parents — engineering — only to hang the certificate in his carpentry dream workshop where he works.

Why could this person not save time and study carpentry?

The answer is that society has handcuffed us to a limited selection of careers we could study. We have been bound to these invisible forces so long that we already have a supersaturation in these fields, to the extent that we no longer have any work slots to absorb these "qualified" people. That is when unemployment strikes, and work boredom prevails.



Truthfully, though, the forces dominating us are not quite so invisible.

"Our daughter is getting married to an engineer," announce the proud parents.

"How wonderful, where does he work?" asks the neighbour.

"He doesn't," comes the answer.

Or even better...

"Is this the well rounded person you want to introduce to us? No way are you marrying a cook! I don't care if he's a gourmet cook. I don't care that he's employed for \$750 a month. I don't even care if you ever eat again, but there is no way you and that guy are getting married! Whether you like it or not you are marrying a doctor or an engineer. Even if he is unemployed. He'll work eventually!" Thunders the outraged father.

We end up with people who studied for the prestige and are only paid peanuts because work in the field is scarce, or they work in other jobs completely unrelated to their line of study because they need the money, dragging themselves from one day to another.

I am waiting for the day when all kids could do their own research to find out what fields are lacking in a society and studying one of them. But that is all I can hope for before I rush to get ready for a wedding. My friend is getting married to a doctor tonight.

"Does he work?"

"What work?"

Twenty-five years to life

By E. Yaghi

WHEN Shirley finally accepted Jeff Walker's proposal for marriage, he thought he was the happiest man in the world. At first, he had been timid and afraid that she would laugh at him. Then one spring day when squirrels darted back and forth across fresh sprouting lawns and baby robins squawed in their nests and there was a prominent smell of ocean spray in the air, he popped the question. "Shirley, will you marry me?"

Shirley had been waiting for this jellyfish to propose marriage for some time now, but she didn't let on for one second that she would stoop low enough to demand a proposal. A smile almost crept across her face, but she immediately hid it, bit her lip and said, "I don't know. Let me think about it." And at last, one clear unforgettable day she told him, "Jeff, I've thought about your offer long enough. You need me to take care of you. You can't manage without me. Yes, I will marry you."

Their wedding wasn't a grand affair, but simple according to the financial capabilities of the groom. Jeff thought he was indeed lucky that someone as wonderful as Shirley had even contemplated a marriage to him. But the honeymoon was soon over and so was marital bliss. Shirley became more and more demanding and at last, her belligerent personality exposed itself. One miserable day when Jeff didn't see the beauties of spring, his wife approached him and said: "It's about time that you hand over your paycheck to me so, I can take care of our expenses. Better yet, from now on, I want your company to mail your checks directly to me."

"All and well," Jeff thought. "She's much better with money than I am and I'm sure she'll handle our financial matters much more efficiently than I ever could."

Yet, he found that when every check began to make its way into his wife's hands, he had no money to even put in his pocket and was left to beg money from his wife.

"Please, hon, can't you just give me a few dollars so that I can buy a soda at work or a sandwich if I'm hungry?"

"Absolutely not, you stupid idiot! I'll pack your lunch for you so you won't be needing any money. Here, I'll give you \$5.00 and it will have to last you for the rest of the week."

As the years dragged by, Jeff found that more and more he became a henpecked husband. His wife had two children and instead of the children fusing their relationship and increasing the spouses' love for each other, he only found that he was becoming less and less a person and that somehow she seemed to gain strength by ridiculing him and having authority over him. The oldest child, a boy, was a lot like his father. Jeff knew his wife hated the boy because as she said: "You're useless and just like your father, a lazy bum! You'll never amount to anything!"

Jeff noted that the look of pain in the boy's eyes and shared with him a feeling of hopelessness. He couldn't tell his wife anything. Her tongue was as sharp as a sword and just as swift. She spared him not in front of children, friends or relatives. Jeff's hair prematurely grayed. Wrinkles cut their way across his forehead, bags hung under his eyes, his shoulders sagged and in spite of his 6 foot, two hundred pound physique, he looked shorter and stubby. He started acting childlike and even more timid than when he had first married. He was helpless and couldn't think for himself. But he could experience pain, anger and hate, mixed with adulation and a feeling of inferiority and subordination.

One day while he was recovering from a back injury, Shirley said on her way out the door: "Jeff, would you mind cleaning the garage? You haven't straightened it up for a long time you know."

He had been lying on the sofa as he spoke. After she

raced out the door on the way to her hairdresser's, he slowly made his way off the couch, placing a hand behind his back to give comfort and support. "Ouch," he yelled to himself. "I've got to take it easy. I'll try to clean as easily as I can. Can't risk being laid off work any longer."

He headed for the garage. It was a cold winter's day. Snow clung to the ground and when he breathed, puffs of frost floated out of his mouth. Jeff rubbed his hands to keep the blood circulating. Then he began to work. He swept the garage and arranged the accumulated belongings in order. A taste of dust crunched under his teeth and he choked as fumes swooped down his lungs. After several hours on non-stop work, Jeff painfully made his way back to the couch where he had been lying before his chores. About two hours later, his wife whisked in like an icy wind, gave him a dirty look and said, "I told you're a lazy bum! Sneeze bag! But you didn't even try to clean the garage. You despicable couch potato! You're such a slob!"

He protested, "No, you are wrong. I've been working all afternoon in the garage. Go take a look at it!"

"Let's take a look together," she insisted.

Once again, he pulled himself off the couch and pushed his back with a supporting hand. They went out to the freezing garage and his wife guffied with disgust. "Is this how you cleaned the garage? A child could have done better! How lazy you are! I told you, you're hopeless! Let's see, did you clean behind the washer and dryer?"

His lips swelled with a "No, but I couldn't work any longer. My back was killing me. I couldn't take the pain!"

"Well I wish it did kill you then I'd get rid of you!" She grabbed a broom and with the stick end of it, began to poke and jab her husband. Then she hit him with sharp blows all the time screaming, "I'll teach you to do a job halfway, you bum!"

He was bigger than her, much stronger, but he was so used to being henpecked and not thinking for himself that he just bent over his stomach with his arms folded above his head, trying to dodge her blows. She yelled, "Take your clothes and get out of the house!"

He begged her to let him stay in his house, the one that he had worked all his life for. That night he went to sleep with bruises and a muddled mind and an aching back. He couldn't take this life anymore. He couldn't leave or try to take the boys with him, for the court would give them back to their mother. Finally, "I'll kill myself!" Then he thought, "No, that won't do any good, because the boys will be left alone with their mother. There won't be anyone to buffer their hurt and anger when she dehumanises them like she does to me."

He got up in the dark and stumbled to a chest of drawers where he kept a blunt piece of metal that he had crafted with his hands. He picked up the hard cold object and went over to where his wife was sleeping. It was now or misery forever. He struck her hard with all the strength he could find. She didn't move. Something snapped in his mind so he continued to hit her. The sheets reddened with Shirley's blood. His hands were covered with blood. He ran in the bathroom and tried to wash the sticky substance from his hands, but he couldn't. His mind fogged. He panicked and called the police.

He was arrested and placed in a correctional institution where he now serves a sentence from twenty-five years to life. Although many women who have been battered by their husbands and killed them in a moment of anger have been set free, there is no mercy for Jeff. After all, he's a man and everyone knows that there is no such thing as a battered husband, or is there?

This particular story occurred in America but there are battered husbands suffering this every moment all over the world. God give them perseverance to put up with their wives and not murder them in the middle of the night.

October birthstone THE OPAL

Family — The most highly prized of the silica gemstones.

Colour — Some types of valued opals for jewellers are black, dark blue, dark green or grey with vivid flashes of colour springing from the dark stone; orange-red to red fire opal which may or may not show a play of colour; water opal showing brilliant flashes of colour in a clear, colourless (water-white) stone.

Geographical sources — Australia, Czechoslovakia, and Mexico.

Legendary background — An ancient belief held that the opal provided protection against poisoned food, and it was considered essential to carry one as poisoning one's enemies was a widespread practice. In Roman times the opal was thought to be of great good luck, because the rainbow seen in each stone was regarded as a symbol of hope. It is recorded that Nonius, a Roman senator, preferred exile to parting with an opal the size of a hazel nut, coveted by Mark Antony. It was also supposed to have the power of making those who wore it invisible to their enemies. In medieval Europe blondes believed that a

necklace of opals would preserve the natural colour of their hair. It was also thought that a touch on the forehead with an opal would promote a good memory.

Qualities — Hope, faith and good fortune.

Jewellery interpretations — The opal was a favourite gemstone of Queen Victoria. Among the royal collection of jewels at Sandringham House are those by the famous Russian jeweller, Fabergé, patronised by Queen Alexandra. Some have opals carved like a bird, a fish, a cat and a dog, using all the natural lights, colours and reflections of the gemstone. A matching ring and bracelet owned by Sarah Bernhardt, in the form of a serpent, had the head made of carved opal.

Today — Opals are mainly features in rings, generally cabochon cut; this is a domed surface, in varying degrees of steepness. Watch dials made of opal are framed with a traditional diamond surround.

Notable October birthdays — Oscar Wilde, Alfred Nobel.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Friday, Oct. 18

1867 — United States takes formal possession of Alaska from Russia.

1912 — Italy and Turkey sign peace treaty at Lausanne.

1925 — French bomb Damascus, Syria.

1944 — Soviet troops invade Czechoslovakia in World War II.

1974 — Soviet Union and Egypt agree to support establishment of a Palestinian state.

1987 — Indian troops fight their way into Jaffna, stronghold of Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka, and engage in house-to-house combat.

Saturday, Oct. 19

1925 — Italy completes occupation of Italian Somaliland.

1935 — League of Nations imposes sanctions against Italy.

1944 — U.S. troops land in Philippines in World War II.

1957 — West Germany severs relations with Yugoslavia.

1960 — United States places embargo on shipments

to Cuba.

1962 — Fighting erupts between troops from India and China on two fronts on the disputed Himalayan border between the two countries.

1973 — Libya, angered by United States' Middle East policy, orders halt of all oil shipments to United States and almost doubles prices.

1990 — Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov comes to Washington to express his country's sympathy for stiffer sanctions to try to force Iraq out of Kuwait.

Monday, Oct. 21

1805 — England's Lord Nelson defeats Franco-Spanish fleet at Trafalgar and is mortally wounded.

1879 — American Thomas A. Edison invents electric lamp.

1916 — Austria's premier, Count Carl Sturgkhi, is assassinated.

1945 — Women vote for first time in France.

1947 — U.N. General Assembly asks Greece and Balkan powers to settle differences peacefully.

1953 — France grants inde-

pendence to Indochinese Kingdom of Laos.

1971 — Peter the Great takes title of Czar of All Russia.

1859 — Spain declares war on Moors in Morocco.

1862 — Garrison in Athens, Greece, revolts, forcing King Otto I to resign.

1873 — Emperors of Germany, Russia and Austria-Hungary form alliance.

1952 — Iran breaks diplomatic relations with Britain over oil dispute.

1953 — France grants inde-

pendence to Indochinese Kingdom of Laos.

1956 — Demonstrations in Hungary call for democratic government.

1962 — President John F. Kennedy orders U.S. air and naval forces to quarantine Cuba after concluding that Soviet missile bases are being built on that island.

1969 — Lebanon's Premier Rashid Karami resigns amid mounting pressure against his government's attempt to suppress guerrilla movement.

1974 — United States and Iceland sign new lease permitting continued operations of U.S. military bases in Iceland.

1977 — Forty-two nations ask U.N. General Assembly to take up problems of air-plane hijackings.

1987 — Iranian missile crashes into Kuwait's offshore supertanker terminal, setting facility ablaze.

1988 — Iraq announces it is will release unilaterally 25 Iranian prisoners of war in accordance with United Nations ceasefire resolution.

By The Associated Press

1971 — Peter the Great takes title of Czar of All Russia.

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JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 17

9:10 Shakespeare's Othello

10:00 News in English

10:20 W.L.O.U.

Do The Wrong Thing

The main story of the news department is that of a young criminal who tried to rape an old woman and was beaten by the police into confession! What side of the story should the station report.

9:10 Beyond West World

Sound Of Terror

The Delores staff manage to stop the robots' creator from selling an atomic bomb to a Third World dictator.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

A Summer Story

The film is about the tragic end of a love story between the sophisticated city boy, Frank, and the simple country girl, Magen.

Friday, Oct. 18

8:30 Coach

Magnificent Obsession

The team leaves to a match without coach Haiden who is forced to stay behind for a jaw surgery, who watches the match on television.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Blind Vengeance

Saturday, Oct. 19

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Life On The Land

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Blind Vengeance

Sunday, Oct. 20

8:30 The Golden Girls

9:10 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Orchid House

Monday, Oct. 21

8:30 Hey Dad

9:10 The Midas Touch

The High Cost Of Debt

In the Western World, the 1980s were the decade of the debtaholics — all the way from individuals to corporations to nations. This episode traces the psychology and physical reality of debt and where it ends — with post-

poning reality and losing control over the future. Among those interviewed are John Reed, chairman of Citibank; John Connally; and Carlos Menem, whose country went deep into debt in the late 1970s and is still in a state of crisis today.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Gabriel's Fire

To Catch A Con

After twenty years in a cell, one may believe anything. And playing on his feelings and emotions towards his family is easy.

Tuesday, Oct. 22

8:30 Who's The Boss

9:10 Our House

10:00 News in English

10:20 Columbo

The Conspirators

With a touch of Irish poetry, Columbo unravels the mystery of the murder of a gun-runner.

Wednesday, Oct. 23

8:30 The Family Man

Scene From A Marriage

Grandpa wants to be "soft" on children, to spoil them, while Jack the father, wants to apply "rules" and the conflict looks like a scene from a marriage.

9:10 Cosmos

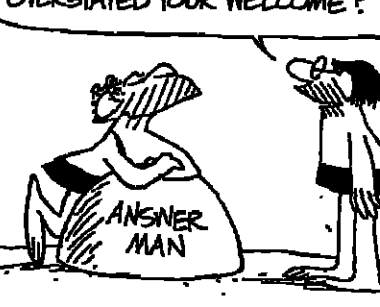
10:00 News in English

10:20 Equal Justice

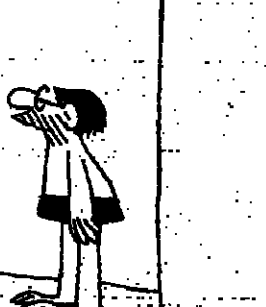
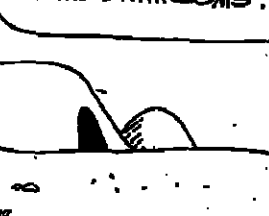
The prosecutors follow up the case of a husband who beats his wife and the case of a woman who has a feud with her boyfriend.

B.C.

WHAT'S THE FIRST SIGN THAT YOU'VE OVERSTAYED YOUR WELCOME?



WHEN YOU FIND YOUR HOST HAS INSTALLED ENTRY CODE DEVICES TO THE BATHROOMS.



Sidney Poitier celebrated at Montreal film fete

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

MONTREAL — Sidney Poitier is recognised as the Jackie Robinson of films, a man who carved his way through Hollywood's discrimination and proved that a black actor could become a box-office star.

Before a near-capacity audience at the Montreal World Film Festival, Poitier reminisced with humour and remarkable frankness about his early years.

He was born on Feb. 20,

1924, in Miami, where his parents had come to sell a boatload of tomatoes from their farm on Cat Island in the Bahamas.

Poitier spent his first 10 years on Cat Island, living close to nature in a place with no electricity and no running water. His parents moved to Nassau, where he proved such a troublemaker that he was shipped off to Miami to live with a brother.

"I knew absolutely nothing about segregation, but I found out in a hurry," he recalled. As a drugstore de-

livery boy, he brought a small package to a woman's house and was puzzled when she insisted that he go to the back door. That night the Ku Klux Klan visited his brother's house with a warning. After several encounters with bigotry, he boarded a bus for New York City, arriving with \$3 in his pocket.

Poitier worked as a dishwasher, sleeping for a time on the roof of the Brill Building, a building long an enclave of songwriters and producers. After a

year in the army, he answered an ad for actors at the American Negro Theatre. One night when Harry Belafonte was unable to appear in a play, Poitier substituted for him. A career was born.

In an interview at the Hotel Meridian, headquarters for the festival, Poitier talked of other matters, including the upsurge of a new generation of black filmmakers such as Spike Lee (*Do the Right Thing*, *She's Gotta Have It*) and John Singleton (*Boyz n the Hood*).

"I'm impressed with them as filmmakers," he commented, "and I hope that their output will be exemplary of a healthy variety. That's just a wish on my part. Their films should be their vision of the world, their vision of life itself, of humankind. I wish that they have a sense of history. I wish they exercise some time for hopefulness and positiveness. That would make me very happy."

Although Poitier's career and public life have been marked by "hopefulness and positiveness" from the beginning, it has not always been a smooth journey.

"Mine was not an easy road," he admitted. "But to characterise it as all difficult would be incorrect. Serendip-

ity was running up and down all those years. It wasn't all my doing. It was the good graces of a lot of people — some names I recall, some I can't recall. Some faces I've forgotten."

"But a good deed here, a good deed there, a good thought here, a good comment there, all added up to my career in one way or another. So it's been kind of a long road, but it was a good journey altogether."

Poitier made his film debut with *No Way Out* in 1950, a time when black actors were largely absent from the screen. He established his presence with *The Blackboard Jungle* (1955), *Something of Value* (1957) and *The Defiant Ones* (1958), his first Oscar nomination.

The 1960s brought a succession of hits: *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Lilies of the Field*, *A Patch of Blue*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *To Sir With Love*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. He started directing in 1972 with the western *Buck and the Preacher*.

"I had been an actor for a long time," he said, "and I was quite aware of the mercurial nature of the careers of actors. More often than not, actors have almost as brief careers as prizefighters."

By 1976, he decided he had achieved "All I could have wished as an actor." He turned to directing full time, but also devoted himself to things he had had little time for: "I wrote two books and some screenplays. I travelled, I studied astronomy, I read philosophy. I did a lot of interesting things, and they did wonders for my life. I understood more around me, and I understood more inside me."

He also grew closer to his family: "I have four daughters from my first marriage (to Juanita Hardy) and two from my second (to actress Joanna Shimkus). I was younger when my older children were young, and I was busy, career-wise. It's been in these last few years when they become adults that we've spent most of the time together. It's been quite extraordinary."

"My two younger children, who are now 18 and 20, afford me an opportunity to correct things, to try. Just to try."

After an 11-year absence from acting, Poitier returned to the screen four years ago with *Shoot to Kill* and *Little Nikita* and ventured onto to small screen for the Emmy-winning *Thurgood Marshall* biography, *Separate But Equal*.



Sidney Poitier in *Shoot to Kill*



Sidney Poitier in his Oscar-winning role in *Lilies of the Field*

Ireland hopes Hollywood's return will boost tourism

By Paul Majendie
Reuters

SLEA HEAD, Ireland — On the edge of Europe stands a windswept Irish village, perched high on the cliff as a stark reminder of the potato famine that ravaged the island in the 19th century.

But a closer look at the ramshackle cottages reveals they are made of fibreglass and that the son of a humble tenant farmer striding across the fields is American actor Tom Cruise.

Hollywood has come to Ireland and the tourist authorities are rubbing their hands at the biggest publicity boost to the scenic Dingle Peninsula since Sir David Lean made the epic *Ryan's Daughter* here 22 years ago. This time it is the turn of Ron Howard, director of the hits *Splash* and *Parenthood*, to use the majestic backdrop of mountain and sea for the film *Far and Away*.

It all very nearly ended in tragedy. A helicopter filming cliff-top shots for the movie crashed into the sea when a freak giant wave was whipped up by high winds and flooded the engine.

The pilot and cameraman escaped with cuts, bruises

and shock and a relieved spokesman for the film company said "they were very, very lucky."

Cruise plays a young Irishman who falls in love with the local landlord's daughter, played by his Australian wife, Nicole Kidman.

Both had special voice coaches to help them perfect their Irish accents. When the film is released next year, everyone in the Dingle Peninsula will be listening to see if they have mastered the lilt of intonation.

The fibreglass village on Sleat Head is being taken down now filming has been completed. But tourist authorities are keen to maintain the concrete cottage that was used as Cruise's home in the film. It is tucked out of sight off the main coast road on a picturesque cliff-top field.

"If the film is a great box office success, I think people will want to come back in five to 10 years' time and see the cottage where it was made," said Chamber of Commerce spokesman John Moriarty.

Plans have also been launched locally to restore the nearby schoolhouse set used in the 1960s filming of *Ryan's*



Actor Tom Cruise with his wife Australian actress Nicole Kidman

Daughter with Robert Mitchum, John Mills and Sarah Miles, a video of which is still shown three times a day in the local Dingle Hotel.

"The two weeks' filming here was a tremendous boost at the end of the tourist season. The film brought a crew of about 180 to 200 to Dingle. Pubs and restaurants were really buzzing, guest houses were very busy," Mr. Moriarty said.

"We got a lot of free publicity that would have cost other towns around the country a fortune to get. The crew also hired about 50 extras locally and then there was a team of about 15 building the village for them."

The high spot was the filming of a Curragh (Irish flat-bottomed boat) race in the harbour at Dingle. Even Fungi, a bottlenose dolphin that has been living in the bay for the past decade and is a major local tourist attraction, put in an appearance alongside the boats.

Ironically the crew had only one major problem when they started filming. The weather was too sunny, hardly the ideal backdrop for the grim tale of a famine-ridden village struggling to survive against appalling odds.

However Mr. Moriarty said it all worked out well in the end — "They finally got the storms they wanted."

Catherine Malfitano — an American soprano comes home

By Mary Campbell
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — She spent the past three years conquering Europe's opera houses, including a memorable role as Salome in the nude. Now soprano Catherine Malfitano has returned to her native land for a star turn with Chicago's Lyric Opera.

Ms. Malfitano is in Chicago for the Lyric's new production of *Antony and Cleopatra*. Samuel Barber composed the opera for the opening of New York's Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Centre a quarter-century ago.

He later revised it, and the Chicago production — to be shown on PBS in December — marks the first performance of the revision by a major opera house.

Ms. Malfitano will stay in Chicago three more months to sing *Madama Butterfly* and *Liu in Turandot*.

Ms. Malfitano, who has been singing opera nearly 20 years, debuted at the Met as Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* in 1979. She sang the title roles in *Lulu* and *Manon* plus *Liu* in the Met's 1987-88 season.

She had started splitting her year between Europe and the United States in 1974. She began performing exclusively in Europe three years ago, she says, because she

likes the risk-taking and avant-garde productions often done there.

Her first *Salome* was at the Berlin Opera last September. "I intended to wear a body stocking for the dance of the seven veils," she says. "The choreographer and my husband convinced me it wasn't that flattering. It would be better for me to dance nude under the veils. When the last veil comes off, for a moment I'm totally nude."

"It wasn't easy to overcome my personal feelings about it but I did finally. My daughter's favourite things is to run around without clothes. I tried to remember what it was like when I was that young. It became the most natural thing to do. After Berlin, I did another production where I didn't take off any clothes. It was a completely different dance."

Her first *Salome* performance was televised all over Europe. "It was scary three months before, when I knew that was going to happen. By opening night I had trained myself — I run and work out with weights — so that by the time I arrived there I was really in the frame of mind of only wanting to do my best."

"I was like an Olympic athlete, excited and up and happy to be there. I really wasn't nervous. I gave one of the best performances of my life so far. I was able to live in

the moment, not being at all afraid of that moment."

Ms. Malfitano recalls being in the audience for the premiere of *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Met in 1966. Her sister sang in the chorus and her father, a violinist, was in the orchestra.

"I heard a lot about rehearsals and the famous day Leontyne (Price) was stuck inside the pyramid and the turntable broke down," she says.

Chicago isn't putting its *Cleopatra* inside a pyramid. "Barber made great improvements in the revision," Ms. Malfitano says. "He cut things and added a glorious love duet. This is a very passionate love story. It is very satisfying to sing and challenging in its wide emotional range, in the way that Puccini is. It has that beauty of line."

Ms. Malfitano didn't worry about learning an opera not scheduled all over the world. "I have wide-ranging repertory," she says. "I've often learned things for one time, never to do them again. I just did 'Der Ferne Klang' (The Far-Away Sound) by Franz Schreker in Vienna. It took a great deal of time to prepare."

Next season, Ms. Malfitano will be back in Chicago as the female lead in the premiere of *McTeague*, a new opera being composed by William Bolcom.

"Her romantic interest is a pile of money she wins," she says of the character she sings. "She is a true miser, in the female operatic repertory probably the first."

"I think it's going to be quite wonderful for the audience. His style of writing is very appealing. Robert Altman is producing. It'll be fascinating working with him."

"I'm always looking for someone who can give me new insight. The best directors like to work with actors are free to explore possibilities. Sometimes you come up with 10 possibilities before they say, 'I like that.' That's very demanding work. It's not for everybody. I like the process of experimentation."

She calls *Salome* the ultimate challenge, where one must be singer-actress-dancer. For the last scene in that opera, she says, "I wanted to get into condition so I could dance full out and recapture my breath to be able to sing immediately afterwards."

Though she undertook Strauss' *Salome* a year ago she won't sing his *Elektra* for a long time, Ms. Malfitano says. Such roles, she says, must come later in a career.

"It is the long arc of the career that matters," she says. "I listened to good advice and listened to my own heart. I learned everything comes in its own moment."

Notorious surrealist opens the Museum Of Woman

By Caroline Brothers
Reuters

BRUSSELS — If Paris can have a Museum Of Man, why not a Museum Of Woman, too? Real, live women, that is.

So reasoned Jan Bucquoy, Belgium's artistic anarchist, who has just opened the world's first *Musee De La Femme* in the heart of Brussels.

With a room to itself inside the world's only Underpants Museum, inaugurated by Bucquoy in his own home earlier this year, the *Museum Of Woman* features 13 living exhibits — one naked and a dozen fully clothed women. All are scrupulously labelled

in French, Dutch and Latin.

"Women merit a temple," said Bucquoy. "For the moment it's at my place, and that suits me fine."

"I want to take part in the evolution of women, I want women to be liberated," he told the press corps gathered at the opening. "I want women to chase men."

Belgium's feminists have no response to that.

Bucquoy concedes that the idea of exhibiting women as objects, albeit as "objects d'art," has met with some hostility, but says: "Women are put on display in advertising and business, but when they're displayed in a museum then people get

upset."

Small, bald, bespectacled and with an impish smile, Bucquoy thrives on notoriety.

In the tradition of Dada and the Surrealists, he has set out to shock, provoke and affront the bourgeoisie, a powerful force in this deeply conservative and devoutly Catholic country.

Belgium's most cherished institutions are all fair game and especially King Baudouin, who Bucquoy believes should be publicly beheaded.

Bucquoy has been banned from a leading television station, shops refuse to sell his satirical magazine and newspapers are hostile.

In the *Underpants Museum* King Baudouin and a number of American presidents are all depicted in Andy Warhol style prints with Y-fronts on their heads.

All the exhibits in the women's museum are volunteers. They pose from 10 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Sundays when the museum is open. Although a prominent sign requests visitors not to touch the exhibits, talking with them is allowed.

"He's not a feminist, he's just girly," said "lesbian woman" Katrin Schollaert, 18. "He loves women, he can't live without them."

She was quick to add: "But we're not his girlfriends."

Japanese singer performs in U.S.

By Mary Campbell
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — "If you can make it there, you'll make it anywhere. It's up to you, New York, N.Y.," a song goes.

Yukiji Asaka has already made it at home in Japan, where she's a singer, dancer and movie actress. But, like the show biz beginners the kander and ebb song is about, she longed to shine in New York.

Now, she has, in a show of pop singing in two languages and Japanese dancing that charmed viewers.

Her management company booked the *Village Gate* in Greenwich Village, for two shows on the second Saturday night in September.

The audience in the 300-seat jazz club was more than

half Japanese.

As happened when American opera diva Beverly Sills made her debut at Covent Garden and La Scala, fans got on an airplane and went along. Fifty of Mr. Asaka's fans arrived on the plane she did, the Wednesday before her performance. They went to Broadway shows while she worked.

Her show began with Mr. Asaka dancing to her own choreography, based on traditional Japanese dancing. Sherry Winston's band played its modern jazz pieces, most of which Winston composed. Ms. Asaka also danced to Japanese recordings, an aria from *Madama Butterfly* and a bolero.

As soon as one dance ended, she went to the side of the stage and shed her gold-embroidered kimono, revealing another kimono in a different colour, equally beautifully embossed in gold.

She later slipped it off and a third kimono shone through a third dance. (She brought eight antique kimonos in all, which her managers insured for \$200,000 for the trip).

Then Ms. Winston's band played four instrumentals and accompanied two songs by Tony Ogburn.

Ms. Asaka sang *Cheek To Cheek*, with confidence. She sang in English though she doesn't speak it.

She explained how her collaboration with Mr. Winston came about.

In Japan, Ms. Asaka had heard two CDs by Ms. Winston. And when she got the date at the *Village Gate*, she contacted the futurist to ask about working together. Ms. Winston agreed, taking time

from her touring schedule.

On Thursday, the day after Ms. Asaka arrived, she ignored jet lag and rehearsals began.

During a break, Ms. Asaka said: "I practiced with music from the CDs. It sounds so different when I dance with the band. It's very difficult."

By Saturday night, all was smooth, and Ms. Asaka and Ms. Winston looked like they had performed together for years.

Ms. Asaka's husband, Masahiko Tsugawa, is a movie actor in Japan. Their daughter attended American schools and speaks English well. But they didn't accompany her.

Before they were married, she and her husband acted together in films and theatre, she said.

Doctors attempt immunisation of patient against cancer

By Paul Rezer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Doctors are attempting for the first time using genetically-manipulated cells to immunise a patient against his own cancer.

The procedure began recently at the U.S. National Institute of Health when Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg injected 200 million live, genetically-altered tumour cells into the thigh of a 46-year-old man who is terminally ill with widespread melanoma cancer.

Dr. Rosenberg said he hopes the procedure will cause the man's immune system to become sensitised to the cancer and cause his body to generate a type of immune system cells, called lymphocytes, that are attuned to attack his particular type of cancer.

"The idea is to use the patient's own cancer to immunise them against their own cancer," said Dr. Rosenberg. "It's like a vaccine, but when you think of a vaccine, it's usually to prevent a disease. Here, we're actually treating an advanced cancer."

In a second phase of the procedure, doctors will soon remove lymph glands that drain the thigh area. From these glands, they will remove lymphocytes particularly sensitive to the gene-modified cancer.

"Those are the cells, because they are close to that infection, that have the strongest immune response," said Dr. Rosenberg. "We will grow them up to high numbers (in the laboratory) and then give them back to the

patient."

He said more than 200 billion of the lymphocytes will be injected into the patient to boost his immune response against the cancer.

Dr. Rosenberg emphasised that the treatment is highly experimental and will be tried on only a few patients over the next year. He said the treatment is not available for general use. Final approval came Monday from an expert advisory committee at the institute and the experiment started Tuesday. Tumour cells had already been taken from the unidentified patient and genetically modified in the laboratory over a three month period, so there was no further delay, Dr. Rosenberg said.

"It takes three minutes to inject the cells, but three months to make them," he said. The tumour cells were modified by inserting into their nuclei a gene for Tumour Necrosis Factor, or TNF. This is a powerful anti-tumour chemical.

With this gene insertion, Dr. Rosenberg said it is hoped that the body will identify the tumour as foreign. This will cause the body to mount an immune system reaction that will attack all of the widespread cancer cells wherever the lymphocytes find them in the body.

Dr. Rosenberg said that though the technique is being first tried on a man with malignant melanoma, it will also be tried on patients with advanced colorectal cancer and with advanced kidney cancer. The doctor said he has permission to treat a total of 15, five with each of the cancers, over the next year.

Fetal brain triggers baby's birth, study suggests

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fetuses may trigger their own births by sending a "go" order to the mother from deep within their brains, suggests a study that might help lead to better prevention of premature births.

Researchers studying sheep identified a pair of brain cells, called the Paraventricular Nuclei, that apparently set off a hormonal chain reaction to begin labour.

The centres, called the Paraventricular Nuclei, or other

parts of the fetal brain may keep tabs on the fetus' development so that childbirth is triggered when the fetus is ready, researchers said.

"You would expect the fetus to be monitoring the development of those systems it needs to survive, then when a certain level of maturation is reached, the system is told, 'go,'" study co-author Thomas McDonald said.

Further research on fetal signalling might lead to earlier diagnosis of premature labour and better drugs to block some causes of premature birth, co-author Dr. Pe-

ter Nathanielsz said.

Premature births occur in up to 10 per cent of pregnancies and account for perhaps 75 per cent of newborn deaths. Premature babies also run heightened risk of long-term trouble such as cerebral palsy and chronic lung problems.

Dr. McDonald and Dr. Nathanielsz, both of Cornell University in Ithaca, reported their study in the September issue of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The study was financed by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

ment.

Scientists do not know what triggers labour in people. The new study "lends more credibility to the concept that the fetus determines when labour starts," said Dr. Roger Freeman, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of California, Irvine.

"There's at least as much evidence that the fetus initiates labour as the mother," Dr. Freeman said. For example, in a condition in which a fetus lacks much of its brain, the mother frequently does not go into labour, he said. The new work is "fascinat-

ing, and it's kind of another piece of a puzzle" that needs much more work to define just what happens in the brain to turn on labour, he said.

The Paraventricular Nuclei regulate secretion of adrenocorticotrophic hormone, called ACTH. Earlier research suggested this hormone plays a key role in fetal signalling to the mother in sheep.

For their study, the Cornell scientists destroyed the Paraventricular Nuclei in five sheep fetuses. The surgery was done while the fetuses were in the womb.

The mother sheep that car-

ried the fetuses never went into labour, and neither they nor the fetuses showed normal changes in hormone levels that are associated with labour. Well after the normal gestation period, surgeons removed the fetuses, which had otherwise developed normally.

The results show that the Paraventricular Nuclei play a necessary role in triggering birth, the researchers said.

Dr. Nathanielsz said more research is needed to define what information the Paraventricular Nuclei may pass about fetal maturation.

Fetal disorders detected from mother's blood

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For the first time, researchers have diagnosed fetal genetic disorders such as Down's Syndrome by simply taking blood samples from pregnant women, eliminating possible risk to the fetus.

"This is important," said Dr. Sherman Elias of the University of Tennessee in Memphis. "It opens up prenatal diagnosis to the whole population because there is no risk to the fetus."

Dr. Elias was one of several researchers who described sophisticated new techniques for sifting fetal blood cells from mothers' blood. The results were described at the Eighth International Congress of Human Genetics.

"What we're looking for is the needle in the haystack," said Dr. Mitchell Golbus of the University of California, San Francisco.

The researchers emphasised that the technique requires much more testing before it can be made widely available.

"The technology is going

to be possible. It's certainly not ready to apply," Dr. Golbus said.

The technique could ultimately be a substitute for amniocentesis, in which fetal cells are obtained by inserting a needle into the womb to remove some of the fluid that bathes the fetus. Amniocentesis has a very small chance of causing a spontaneous abortion, and researchers say the new technique would eliminate that risk.

Dr. Elias and his colleagues reported the identification of a fetus that carried three copies of Chromosome 18, one of the 23 human chromosomes that normally occur in pairs. His group has also identified a fetus with an extra copy of the X Chromosome.

Dr. Diana Bianchi of Children's Hospital in Boston reported the diagnosis of a case of Down's Syndrome, caused by three copies of Chromosome 21.

Screening mothers' blood for fetal disorders is likely to be much cheaper than performing amniocentesis and other conventional techni-

ques for diagnosing fetal ailments, Dr. Golbus said.

"I think the cost is going to be quite reasonable because you can do a large number of samples at one time," he said. "You might be talking about \$100 instead of \$1,000."

The new techniques rely on the fact that a very small number of fetal blood cells can make their way into a pregnant woman's bloodstream through leaks in the placenta.

The cells are very rare in the mother's bloodstream, however. The new technique

uses automated blood cell sorters to help separate fetal blood cells from maternal blood cells, along with a variety of other biochemical tools, Dr. Golbus said.

Once the fetal cells were identified and separated from the mother's bloodstream, the genetic material in the cells was examined for abnormalities that would represent disorders in the fetus.

Researchers are working to improve both the cell-sorting methods and the methods for analysing the small number of fetal cells collected, Dr.

Golbus said. Dr. Bianchi said she was concentrating on the development of improved sorting methods.

The testing will probably be used initially only as a screening tool, to identify women whose fetuses might have disorders. Conventional diagnostic methods would then be used to confirm the diagnoses, Dr. Golbus said.

The cases diagnosed so far have relied on the use of a new procedure called "fluorescent in-situ hybridisation" or FISH, in which

individual chromosomes can be tagged with material that glows when fluorescently lit under a microscope.

That allows the diagnosis of chromosome disorders, but not the diagnosis of such things as sickle-cell anemia and hemophilia, which are caused by defects within genes, not by abnormal numbers of chromosomes.

Such defects can potentially also be diagnosed from fetal cells sifted out of mothers' bloodstreams, Dr. Golbus said, but the diagnoses have not been done.

Malaria control slipping, deaths increasing — new study

By Paul Rezer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Malaria, the mosquito-borne tropical disease, has slipped out of control and is on the march again, striking 100 million people worldwide and causing up to 2 million deaths annually, medical researchers have reported.

"The outlook for malaria control is grim," said the study by the Institute of Medicine, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences. "In many regions where malaria transmission had been almost eliminated, the disease has made a comeback, sometimes surpassing earlier reported levels."

Malaria now exists in 102 countries, and the most dangerous form of the disease, a drug-resistant variety

called Plasmodium Falciparum, is on the rise.

"Over the past two decades, efforts to control malaria have met with less and less success," the report said. Because the parasite that causes the disease has become more drug-resistant and because the mosquitoes that carry it are less susceptible to insecticides, "there are fewer tools today to control malaria than there were 20 years ago," it said.

Malaria is caused by a parasite that has a life cycle that includes both humans and a family of mosquitoes called Anopheles. The parasite is picked up by the mosquito when the insect takes a blood meal from a human who carries the disease. The parasite undergoes three phases of its life cycle in the insect and takes up residence

in the mosquito's saliva glands.

When the mosquito takes another blood meal, the parasite is passed into a human again. Once in the human body, the parasite goes through two more phases, eventually moving into red blood cells where it is ready to be taken in by another mosquito and a repeat of the cycle.

In humans, mild malaria causes high fever, chills and anemia. More serious infections can cause kidney failure, fluid in the lungs, shock, coma and death.

Malaria is common in the tropics, striking most heavily in Africa, Asia and South America. In many of those areas, the disease was on the brink of control, but has now surged back strongly, the report said.

For instance, tens of

thousands of people died in just three months from the disease in Madagascar, an island nation where malaria was under control until a series of epidemics began in 1986.

Many thousands also have died recently in Africa, the study said, and "malaria will continue to exact a heavy toll on human life and health around the world."

In the United States, malaria once was common in the south, but the disease was brought under control, with only 23 outbreaks reported since 1950. However, the Institute of Medicine said there have been outbreaks in the San Diego area in each of the past three years. In 1988, there were 30 cases, the largest U.S. outbreak since 1952.

Prosperity brings AIDS to China

By Andrew Browne
Reuters

RUIJI, China — Prosperity has been a mixed blessing for this booming trading post in southern China — along with the foreign merchants has come heroin and now AIDS. Ruiji strikes fear into Chinese travellers that some, according to one local official, "sleep with all their clothes on because they're scared of catching AIDS from hotel sheets."

Of China's 493 confirmed carriers of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), 320 are in Ruiji, which has a population of 80,000 and is on the border with Burma.

Ruiji was declared an "open area" last year, putting it on the map for overseas businessmen who come to haggle in hotel rooms over jade and rubies smuggled from northern Burma.

But by far the most lucrative contraband is heroin from the Golden Triangle poppy fields of Burma, Laos and Thailand.

Policies designed to attract overseas investment have, however, had an alarming side-effect: Sexually-transmitted diseases, virtually

eradicated after the Communist revolution of 1949, are once again a major health problem.

Gonorrhoea is rampant among prostitutes in coastal areas. Syphilis is on the rise but remains rare. AIDS is rarer still but the virus has a firm hold along the border with Burma and is now clawing its way inland along the heroin smuggling trails of southern China.

Only one Chinese person has died of AIDS in China, but these are early days.

So far AIDS in Ruiji is a disease of heroin addicts, who are almost all illiterate tribesmen farming the China-Burma border, according to Yang Wenqian, head of the local health department. He said Ruiji has about 2,500 addicts.

Blood testing began in 1989 and of the 320 carriers, all except two were infected by sharing needles. The exceptions are the wives of addicts, the only women who have tested positive.

Mr. Yang said the number of new AIDS cases in Ruiji was falling as education discouraged needle sharing among addicts.

"We're most worried about the wives and children," he said, adding that half the addicts were married, and infected husbands continued to have unprotected sex with

their spouses, even though both partners knew the risk. Testing is voluntary, Mr. Yang said, but many wives refuse to have the test.

Nevertheless, Mr. Yang believes AIDS will be confined to drug abusers and "the situation has stabilised." Not one prostitute in Ruiji had tested positive for AIDS, he said, and sexual transmission was not a real threat.

Such optimism could be dangerous.

A deadly combination of prostitution and heroin has been responsible for an explosion of AIDS in Thailand. AIDS is also rife among heroin addicts in the Burmese sector of the Golden Triangle.

Available Chinese statistics for prostitution, drug smuggling and venereal diseases show the incidence is still low in comparison with Thailand. But the numbers are rocketing.

Drugs and prostitution have become the major social scourges since China opened its doors to trade.

Ruiji is the centre of the world's fastest-growing drugs empire as Burmese heroin barons target China. Some 1.5 tonnes of heroin were seized in China in 1990, more than 200 times the 1985 figure.

Prostitutes, male and female, flaunt themselves in

southern cities. Almost 50,000 prostitutes and their clients were rounded up in a three-month campaign starting in June, the Legal Daily newspaper reported this month.

An earlier report said that more than 40 per cent of prostitutes arrested carried a sexually transmitted disease. In all, 44,117 cases of such diseases were recorded in China last year, 60 per cent of them gonorrhoea.

AIDS testing in Ruiji and surrounding Yunnan province is still confined to high risk groups — drug addicts, prostitutes and public health workers. Only 20,000 people have been tested in the province of 33 million people.

Local health workers say one indication that AIDS has not broken into the general population is that no donated blood has been found tainted with the disease.

One young official in Yunnan, who asked not to be named, said many Chinese were still complacent about the disease, believing it to be a "foreign" scourge. Its name in Chinese is a homophone for AIDS with no meaning in itself.

"AIDS has a foreign name, so people thought only foreigners got it. When the first Chinese were infected, people were really shocked," he said.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

DIRECTIVES
By Norma Steinberg

ACROSS

1. Roommate.
2. Wilson.
3. Esther's adversary.
4. 1000.
5. Mouse or sand.
6. Land mass.
7. Bowler's last stand.
8. "Hans, ind."
9. "Superman."
10. "Buddy."
11. "Eisenstein."
12. "Punchy sound."
13. "Punk sign."
14. "Kismet."
15. "Della."
16. "Fall flower."

DOWN

1. Watch sound.
2. Winterton.
3. Champ once.
4. Churney part.
5. Sometime office.
6. Up.
7. Flat brush.
8. Oriental navy.
9. Facial feature.
10. Headlines.
11. Desert signs.
12. Get — out of (verb).
13. Vulgar.
14. Barista's boyfriend.
15. Biblical words.
16. Singer Barone.
17. Soller Palmer.
18. Cheapskate.

DOWN

1. Nippon.
2. Of fleshy beasts.
3. Range of knowledge.
4. Choose.
5. Glide over snow.
6. Small fry.
7. Russia, inland sea.
8. Pro —
9. Was acquainted with.
10. Writer Vidal.

Diagramless

19 X 10, By James Barrick

ACROSS

1. Conductor's story.
2. Mallet for a judge.
3. Islamic holy book.
4. Think.
5. Think carefully about.
6. Tried for office.
7. Egypt, metropolis.
8. Cabbage dish.
9. Comp. pt.
10. Adjusted a piano.

DOWN

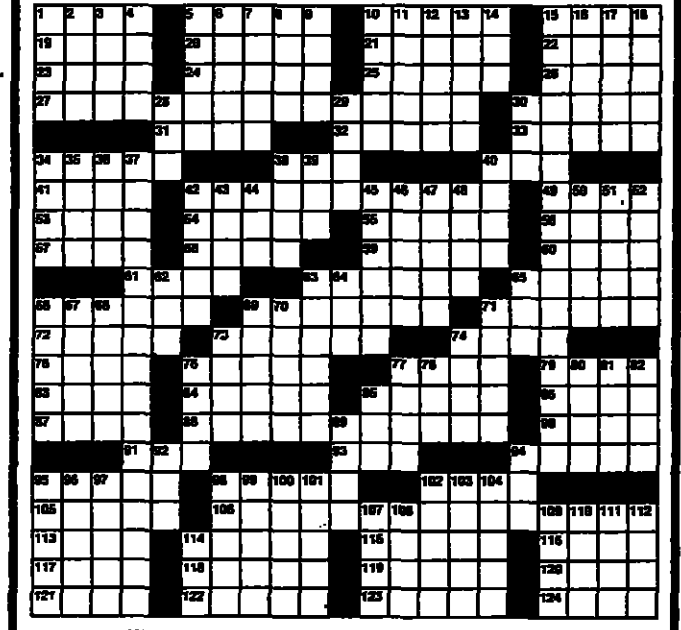
1. Motion picture.
2. A seasoning.
3. Olympian.
4. Driving bird.
5. Word-for-word.
6. United.
7. Storage place.
8. Gangland member.
9. Place for swimming.

34. Animal.
35. To the — degree.
36. He loved: Lat.
37. A former name.
38. Specially.
39. "Bleed."
40. Run easily.
41. "Superman."
42. "Buddy."
43. "Eisenstein."
44. "Punchy sound."
45. "Punk sign."
46. "Kismet."
47. "Della."
48. "Fall flower."

28. Many times to.
29. Legs.
30. Fole for one.
31. At one's — and.
32. "Hans, ind."
33. "Superman."
34. "Buddy."
35. "Eisenstein."
36. "Punchy sound."
37. "Punk sign."
38. "Kismet."
39. "Della."
40. "Fall flower."

23. Cask.
24. What's carried.
25. Narrow passage.
26. Scattered spot.
27. Rates of motion.
28. Woodwind instrument.
29. An article.
30. Channel for blood.

31. Jewish law.
32. Fundamental.
33. Overlaid animal.
34. Soggy.
35. Expressive dance.
36. Cuckoo and lever.
37. Cause to move.
38. "Do — others."
39. Chicken chow —
40. Indeed.
41. Those in power.

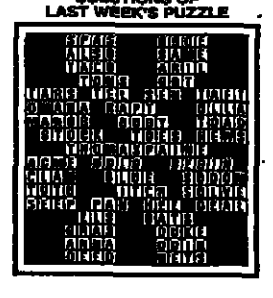
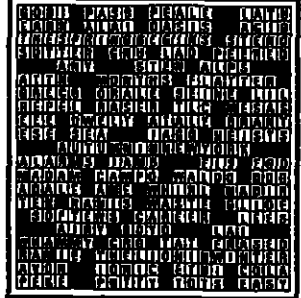


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Jet set gent couldn't get his lovely, just-clipped pet into the vet yet.
2. Blatant failure for decades can be redeemed in a moment of success.
3. Why is veterinarian working in caviar cannery known as the "steakhouse surgeon?"
4. Woman who steals caviar commits crime.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. LIVWAO TVW KST S ISNO-MASTERY
ICSPMEVR PEYCH GSEA BV NLSIC HCL
"MERVICAL" VG KWILKZ —By Ed Huddleston
2. QCO XIVMFOG HAFE MBKO AD AQX
NMAOW WADOXQ CBEM XSMGVXXOX AD
NOVSQZ VDZ XISFGQSMOE WFBOM —By Gordon Miller
3. CA U KUPAN SUN NCEALYIRKY UI MOUN
MUSSORS BUNPON UWAL IBE WUAN
WES MESSORY. —By Lois H. Jones
4. ARTS ORRY THRUST IUL IT IALUKOID IT
ID IHYL HLL —By Norton Rhoades



Palestinian council meets in Tunis

(Continued from page 1)

freedom to put forward its own interpretation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

All of the Arab parties directly involved have declared their acceptance to take part in the peace conference on the basis of the principle of exchanging land for peace as contained in Resolution 242.

Israeli leaders have repeatedly rejected a territorial compromise while the reported letter of assurance, if proved correct, provides a way for Israel not to adhere to 242 as major term of reference at the peace conference.

These points have created a negative atmosphere in Tunis, PLO officials said. On Wednesday night the possibility remained strong that the PLO might just declare that the American assurances were insufficient for the PLO to authorize Palestinian participation at the peace conference as being discussed as one of the council's options.

But despite the discouraging signs, from the PLO viewpoint, the Palestinian officials admit that they have limited options.

Equal footing for EC at parley

(Continued from page 1)

ties to EC member countries. "At the Mideast peace conference the community will take a close interest in all the issues discussed, whether bilateral or multilateral," the official said,

"If the PLO says no it will face more isolation and we mainly fear that our rejection will be used as a cover for Israel to step its campaign to build settlements and gradually annex Palestinian lands," said one official.

The PLO's disappointment in Mr. Baker's mission, however, does not mean that the PCC will preclude the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. One option is to approve the formation of delegation without forsaking the terms for Palestinian participation set by the Palestinian National Council (PNC) last month in Algiers.

The PNC gave the green light for Palestinian involvement in the peace process but left the final decision to the PCC concerning Palestinian participation if the Palestinian terms were met.

The U.S. has so far not accepted the PLO's demands that it appoint the delegates and remain responsible for the delegation throughout the talks. The PLO is also demanding a halt to Israeli settlement building and that the negotiations should involve an Israeli withdrawal from eastern Jerusalem.

Jordan, PLO agree on united front

(Continued from page 1)

tion with King Hussein.

The Tunis-based PLO's decision-making Central Council was scheduled to meet late Wednesday to make a final decision on whether to back the peace talks.

Mr. Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, said the 95-member Central Committee's decision might be postponed to consider the results of meetings between Mr. Baker and West Bank Palestinians.

Three Palestinian negotiators from the Israeli-occupied territories left Amman on Wednesday to hold crucial talks in Jerusalem with Mr. Baker on Wednesday or Thursday.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said the PLO still insisted on a halt to Israeli settlement-building in the occupied territories before it will agree to attend the talks. Palestinians will also press Mr. Baker for assurances that a delegate from East Jerusalem would be allowed to attend and for firmer references to Palestinian self-determination.

But PLO officials in Amman said that despite the perception that Palestinians had no choice but to back the peace talks, there was a real danger that the PLO, reflecting sentiment in the occupied territories, may reject the conference.

Many Palestinians find Israeli conditions placed on their attendance at the talks humiliating.

Settlers stage anti-Baker protest

(Continued from page 1)

Groups for the 100,000 settlers had taken out newspaper advertisements and issued posters with Mr. Baker's picture below the headline "Uncle Jim, shame on you."

Speakers addressing the settlers outside the U.S. consulate were more forthright, accusing the U.S. of treachery and a smear campaign against Israel which it bores with \$3 billion a year in aid.

A Jewish woman settler was slightly wounded in a stabbing attack in the occupied West Bank only hours before Mr. Baker was to arrive.

The woman, identified as Rivka Baker, was scratched on her right shoulder with a razor knife in the town of Hebron, the army spokesman's office said. She was treated on the spot, it said.

The army imposed a curfew on the town's 90,000 Palestinians and set up road blocks, Arab reports said.

Israel's leading peace movement, Peace Now, said it would stage demonstrations in favor of peace talks, including one at an East Jerusalem village where ultra-nationalist Jews seized Arab houses last week.

"Settlements can't go on. Poles show more than 60 per cent of all Israelis back freezing or stopping them if that makes peace possible," said Gila Golan, a Peace Now representative.

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin arrives in Israel on Thursday to clear the way to renewing full diplomatic ties with Israel. Mr. Shamir demanded Moscow renew ties, severed over the 1967 war, if it wished to sponsor peace talks.

Baker secures Syrian 'yes'

(Continued from page 1)

the end of the month, barring a last-minute hitch.

Mr. Sharaa called the U.S.-Syrian discussions "very positive" but condemned Israel as being "intransigent."

"That's why we want to test the Israeli intentions at the peace conference," Mr. Sharaa said.

Mr. Baker described the two days of talks in Damascus as both "extensive and positive." He added that Mr. Assad had reiterated his intention to participate, "in the conference itself."

The conference, which U.S. and diplomatic sources said Tuesday is tentatively set to begin in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Oct. 29, would be held in phases.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Wednesday it was possible that President George Bush and Soviet Presi-

dent Mikhail Gorbachev would attend the opening of the conference.

After a ceremonial opening, Arabs and Israelis would negotiate head-to-head on the issues of Israeli control of Arab lands, and with the exception of Egypt, the refusal of Arabs to accept a Jewish state in the area.

The overriding U.S. objective is a land-for-peace deal in which Israel would relinquish land in exchange for diplomatic recognition by the Arabs.

In a separate phase, such regional problems as Palestinian refugees, environmental threats, scarce water supplies and a growing military buildup would be negotiated. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries would join the talks at that point.

Syria apparently is the only Arab holdout for that phase.

U.N. hostage envoy leaves Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

their Western captives were set free, the sources said.

A Tehran newspaper said Monday that one of the five American hostages still held in Lebanon might be released soon.

Israel has said that it would not free any more prisoners until it receives information on two of its missing servicemen.

A Hizbollah official said Thursday Iranians were trying to help revive dormant efforts for the swap of Western hostages for Arab detainees, but that Israel was hindering the process.

"The negotiations are going on through Iran," said Sheikh Hussein Khalil, who heads the politburo of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God).

He said the Iranians were dealing with the United Nations, but did not elaborate.

"Hizbollah is concerned with the hostage affair only because the party holds Israeli prisoners. We do not hold any of the hostages," Mr. Khalil told a news conference.

He was reiterating Hizbollah's standard line that it has nothing to do with the kidnappings, although Western intelligence

sources maintain it acts as an umbrella for the factions holding the Westerners.

An anonymous caller Tuesday provided a serial number which he claimed belonged to an Israeli soldier allegedly abducted by a group calling itself Hizbollah-Palestine.

The caller said the number, 04693737, was obtained from a military identification card found on the soldier, Yaacov Samir Yizhai.

However, military sources in Israel, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the serial number and the name belonged to two different people and that they both have been accounted for and have not been kidnapped.

A statement by the Israeli army later categorically denied Monday's claim by Hizbollah-Palestine that it had captured an Israeli soldier.

"Following information published on the so-called kidnapping of an Israeli soldier, the spokesman announces that after a thorough investigation no soldier is missing answering to the published name," said the statement.

Helicopter row rekindled

(Continued from page 1)

if it comes to a discussion, then we will ground the helicopters temporarily until we've had the discussions," he said.

Special commission official Derek Boothby also asserted that there was no cooperation between the U.N. special commission and the Israelis. "Categorically, there was no collusion," he said.

Mr. Boothby said in New York that the appearance of Israeli planes over Iraq on Oct. 4 — flights that prompted a protest last week to the United Nations by the Baghdad government — came as "a complete surprise" to U.N. inspectors.

Also Wednesday, Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari released other letters complaining of Turkish air raids and U.S. and Kuwait overflights during October, and saying that on Oct. 4 Kuwaiti soldiers shot at Iraqi police on the border.

The Iraqi letters complained that U.S. F-16s buzzed the Farnaj airfield on Oct. 10, and said other U.S. planes flew over Iraqi cities from Oct. 10-13 "for the purpose of observation and provocation."

Mr. Anbari also released a letter complaining that Turkish warplanes conducted raids last weekend on Kurdish guerrillas from Turkey who had sought sanctuary in northern Iraq.

The U.N. Sanctions Committee on Tuesday approved detailed procedures that would allow Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil to purchase food and other relief supplies under strict U.N. control.

But Iraq still has not declared whether it will agree to the terms of the oil sale and cooperate with the United Nations. Baghdad says it needs the revenue from the sale in order to purchase food, medicine and emergency civilian supplies.

Iraq has denounced the strict U.N. controls over the oil sale as a humiliating violation of its sovereignty. Baghdad says Iraqis are going hungry because the United States and its allies have refused to lift the sanctions.

Sales and purchases could begin once Iraq agrees to the United Nations' terms and resolves its dispute with the Turkish government over fees for use of the oil pipeline through Turkey.

Israeli media unveil letter of assurances

(Continued from page 1)

the creation of an independent Palestine state.

Israel holds its own interpretation of Security Council resolution 242, alongside other interpretations.

Israel is entitled to secure and defensible borders.

The U.S. will take steps to enlarge the circle of peace in the Middle East.

The U.S. will take steps to bring the Arab economic boycott to an end and to have U.N. resolution 3379 equating Zionism and racism annulled.

The U.S. will consult closely with Israel and show due consideration for Israel's positions in

the peace process.

The U.S. reaffirms ex-President Gerald Ford's written commitment to ex-premier Yitzhak Rabin of September 1975 regarding the importance of the Golan Heights to Israel's security.

The U.S. would be ready to give its own guarantees to any border agreed upon between Israel and Syria.

Israel is entitled to a secure border with Lebanon, and Security Council resolution 425 on Lebanon must be implemented in a manner assuring the stability and security of the border.

The U.S. is committed to Israel's security and to the maintenance of Israel's qualitative edge.

Mr. Levy told the committee

that he was still trying to convince U.S. Secretary of State James Baker not to state that the U.S. remains free to declare its position on the future of the West Bank and Gaza in the course of the negotiations. This would encourage the Arabs to obduracy.

Mr. Levy said he told Mr. Baker at their recent meeting in New York.

The government is resolved not to be the obstacle to the convening of the conference or to cause delays. But one point still outstanding is an American undertaking regarding the nature of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," Mr. Levy added.

In speaking to reporters, Mr. Levy said, "The letter of assurances which we received, guarantees points which are cardinal for

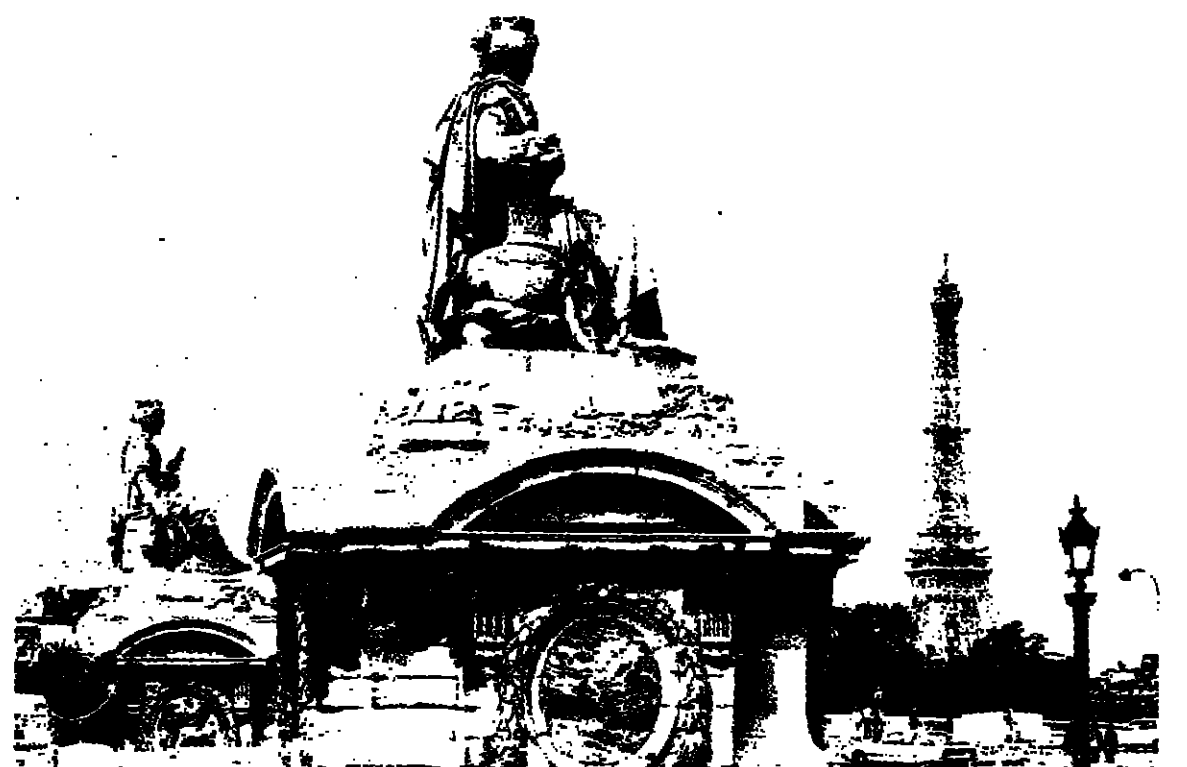
Israel. A memorandum of understanding might have generated misunderstandings."

He added that "the conference might convene in the absence of certain scheduled participants as Baker hinted very broadly to the Palestinians."

Mr. Levy avoided several reporters' questions as to whether or not Israel would sit at the table with Palestinian activists Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi.

As to the conference's location, Mr. Levy said, "The Hague and Lausanne are two possible venues for the conference which will last two days and be followed after a break of two to four days by bilateral talks." He denied rumours of a lack of coordination with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

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PARIS	11:15	09:00
AMMAN	18:45	16:40

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Deutsche Mark	1.7134	1.7040
Swiss Franc	1.9960	1.9882
French Franc	5.8300	5.8005
Japanese Yen	130.15	129.95
European Currency Unit	1.1959	1.2015

USD Per STD

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Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.12	5.31	5.51	5.43
Sterling Pound	10.50	10.25	10.18	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.10	9.25	9.25	9.25
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.25	8.18	8.00
French Franc	9.12	9.18	8.31	9.31
Japanese Yen	6.78	6.53	6.78	6.00
European Currency Unit	9.43	9.81	9.62	9.62

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	357.80	7.05	Silver	4.085	0.092

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6870	0.6890
Sterling Pound	1.1697	1.1755
Deutsche Mark	0.4019	0.4039
Swiss Franc	0.4605	0.4628
French Franc	0.1180	0.1186
Japanese Yen	0.5284	0.5310
Dutch Guilder	0.3555	0.3573
Swedish Krona	0.1104	0.1110
Italian Lira	0.0536	0.0541
Belgian Franc	0.01947	0.01957

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7930	1.8010
Lebanese Lira	0.0774	0.0778
Saudi Riyal	0.1829	0.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1863	0.1870
Qatari Riyal	0.2050	0.2180
Ugandan Shilling	1.7590	1.7800
Omani Rial	0.1863	0.1870
Greek Drachma	0.3615	0.3715
Cypriot Pound	1.4500	1.4700

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	15/10/1991 Close	14/10/1991 Close
All-Share	122.23	122.07
Banking Sector	102.88	102.70
Insurance Sector	125.02	125.15
Industry Sector	151.43	151.29
Services Sector	131.31	131.03

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Energy was low in the absence of both fresh news and the big four houses, but small lot buying supported the market, arbitrageurs sparked occasional rises, and sentiment was firm. The Nikkei average closed up 27.02 points at 24,334.67.

SYDNEY — The market shrugged off negative comments by an international credit rating agency. The index closed at a 15 month high, up 4.9 points to 1,591.4.

HONG KONG — The market was closed for the Chung Yung festival. On Tuesday, the Hang Seng index finished 11.54 points up at 4,033.75.

SINGAPORE — Selective buying interest alternated with profit-taking in thin trading. The Straits Times Index closed at 1,370.23, up a marginal 0.19.

CBJ denies report of 'new bank' in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Wednesday denied that discussions were under way on purchasing of Jordanian banks by the Arab American Bank (AAB) through its representative from the Dominican Republic, Nemen Nader. Mr. Nader, Latin American businessman, had told local papers that he was in Amman to apply for the opening of a new bank under the name of AAB. Mr. Nader, a former candidate for the 1990 presidential elections in the Dominican Republic, also asserted that he was in the process of finalising a deal with the CBJ to buy 100 per cent of the Jordan Gulf Bank, 50 per cent of the London-based Jordan International Bank and the Washington-based Petra Banking Corporation.

"Mr. Nader has only submitted a request to the CBJ in his capacity as AAB board chairman to open an office for the bank in Jordan," the CBJ statement said. "The CBJ has been looking through the July 1991 edition of the World Bank Handbook but could not find the name of the AAB. The search for information on the bank is continuing and it is unlikely that a licence for such office will be issued even if the necessary information have been collected," it said.

The CBJ statement said that Mr. Nader submitted a letter offering to buy the banks, but his request had not been considered. "In light of this information, the CBJ warns the public against entering into any partnership or paying any funds based on what has been published," said the statement.

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Biggest U.S. bank posts \$885m loss

NEW YORK (R) — Citicorp, the biggest bank in the United States, Tuesday reported an \$885 million loss for the third quarter after taking a huge one-time charge against earnings and cited sluggish economic conditions at home and abroad.

The size of the loss underscored problems still troubling U.S. banks, which have been hit hard by the recession, falling real estate prices and souring loans.

The loss from the latest quarter compared with a profit of \$221 million a year ago. The New York bank said it was suspending its common stock dividend.

Citicorp has taken charges and writedowns totalling \$930 million to bolster its reserves and cover a restructuring programme designed to pare costs.

Chairman John Reed said in a statement that the bank was speeding up its restructuring programme "in light of deteriorating conditions in our domestic and global operating environment."

He said that since the plan was announced last January the bank had cut costs by \$900 million and attracted new capital.

Trading in Citicorp stock was suspended just before the financial results were announced.

Chemical Bank, another big New York-based bank, said it had net profits of \$131.6 million compared with a loss of \$43.7 million a year ago.

Belgium wants aid tied to arms cuts

BANGKOK (R) — Developing countries that spend less than two per cent of their gross domestic product on arms should get special aid treatment, Belgium's Finance Minister said Wednesday.

"Even if the application of this formula caused occasional difficulties, it would be a powerful incentive to reducing the waste of resources resulting from excessive armaments purchases by poor countries," Philippe Maystadt told the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual meeting.

Mr. Maystadt said Belgium and other arms exporters had a responsibility to reduce arms production and should plan to convert their arms-making industries.

It was the fear that calls for cuts in arms spending by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus's would eventually be linked to development aid that caused the Group of 24 (G-24) poor countries to tell the World Bank and IMF last Friday to stick to money matters and leave defence to them.

The G-24 chairman, Colombian Finance Minister Radolf Hommes, said some countries were worried that the two world financial agencies might start to insist on cuts in arms spending as a condition for extending loans.

Although he did not mention any countries by name, officials said India and Pakistan, which confront each other across a disputed border, were the strongest critics of IMF involvement in the arms-spending debate.

The Group of 10 rich nations threw its weight behind the IMF chief's arms call when in a communiqué at the weekend it advocated cuts "in unproductive expenditure, including excessive military expenditure, in all countries."

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Paris Club 1991 debt rescheduling hits record \$63b

BANGKOK (R) — The Paris Club of government creditors has rescheduled a record \$63.3 billion of debt so far this year, reflecting landmark deals for Poland and Egypt, a senior official of the club said Wednesday.

Since 1983, when the Third World debt crisis flared, the club has rescheduled \$180 billion of official debt. Since 1956, when it started, the total is \$197 billion.

Paris Club creditors agreed to write off half the money they were owed by Poland as it spearheaded market-oriented economic reforms in eastern Europe, and by Egypt because it joined the coalition in the war against Iraq.

The senior Paris Club official said there was no consensus among the 15 or so government that form the core of the informal grouping to extend similar concessions to other heavily indebted lower-to middle-income countries.

"There is simply no consensus to do anything equivalent" for other debtors, the official told reporters.

Bank of France Governor Jacques de Larosiere expressed a widely held view when he told the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Tuesday that Paris Club creditors should be allowed to offer debt or debt-service reduction on a case-by-case basis to countries pursuing tough economic reforms.

"They neither constitute a

general precedent nor can be considered as absolute exceptions," Mr. De Larosiere said of Poland and Egypt.

The United States and Japan in particular have been reluctant to endorse widespread debt relief.

Officials said Washington was holding up proposals, championed by Britain and France, to write off between 50 and 80 per cent of the official debt of the world's poorest countries.

Debt write-offs must be charged off against the U.S. administration's foreign-aid budget and are thus a hot issue in the U.S. Congress.

In contrast, long-term debt reschedulings, an option that would disappear if the Franco-British proposals were adopted, have no impact on the U.S. government's budget.

He was confident the hurdle would be overcome soon.

Another source, a senior IMF official, said U.S. agreement might have to wait until next year's budget.

The \$63.3 billion owed by 11 countries that the Paris Club has rescheduled this year compares with a total of \$15.5 billion owed by 18 nations that the club handled in 1990.

Since 1983, it has rescheduled \$71.6 billion in debt owed by Africa, including Egypt, \$38.5 billion for Latin America, \$64.2 billion for eastern Europe, \$4.8 billion for Asia and \$600 million for the Middle East.

Worried depositors drain some branches of Norwegian bank

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Worried depositors began an apparent run on Norway's second largest bank Tuesday, demanding their savings in cash because Christiania Bank Og Kreditkasse A/S needed its second government bailout since August.

"I don't trust Kreditkassen or the state's guarantees," an older woman told the Norwegian news agency NTB after she withdrew her savings.

The commercial bank borrowed 1.8 billion kroner (\$268 million) in August from a state bank security fund, established in February to help the country's ailing banks. It was the biggest ever public bail-out of a Norwegian business.

On Monday the bank's management said more was needed, possibly all 2.5 billion kroner (\$375 million) remaining in the state fund, newspapers reported.

The Norwegian finance ministry and the state Bank of Norway promised to help the bank meet its obligations.

"We have been assured that the authorities will ensure Kreditkassen's solvency and that liquidity will be protected through the Bank of Norway. Depositors' money is safe," the bank's chairman, Per Ditlev Simonsen, told the Oslo newspaper Aftenposten.

NTB said some bank employees gave depositors copies of a finance ministry news release promising to protect their money. Many savers wanted cash anyway and drained some branch offices of cash by Tuesday afternoon, it said.

The bank was expected to announce growing losses next week. In August, it reported 1.358 billion kroner (\$202 million) in losses for the first half of the year.

It was suspended from trading on the Oslo Stock Exchange Monday at the bank's request. Its stock, worth around 1.9 billion kroner (\$283 million) in August, will probably be written off, and increased state investment would give the government de facto control, reports said.

World Bank uses lower global rates to pre-pay its debt

BANGKOK (R) — In these times of tight money and sluggish economies, even the World Bank is looking for ways to pinch a penny here and there.

The global lending organisation is taking advantage of falling world interest rates to pre-pay chunks of outstanding debt, Paul Siegelbaum, a senior officer in the World Bank's financial operations department, said Wednesday.

Declining interest rates in Japan and the United States have enabled the bank to pay more than \$400 million of debt so far this year, he told Reuters.

If interest rates continue at present levels, at least another \$300 million could be retired before the end of the fiscal year in June, 1992, he said.

"Lower interest rates have given us a real opportunity to achieve substantial savings on some of our debt," he said.

The bank typically saves two to three per cent of the total issue size when it exercises debt calls, which allow the bank to return loans to the lender.

The amount of savings from pre-paying debt hinges on the rate at which the debt is refinanced, Mr. Siegelbaum said.

The bank's ability to retire significantly larger amounts of debt may be limited, however.

Mr. Siegelbaum said about six per cent, or \$5 billion, of the bank's total debt has call features and the bank is reluctant to buy back its own debt on the market.

The majority of the bank's debt with call options is in yen-denominated bonds.

"We have two rules when exercising a call," Mr. Siegelbaum said. "We must achieve a substantial savings and we do not want to irritate lenders."

The bank's heavy borrowing needs mean it must tread lightly when it comes to pre-paying, he said.

The World Bank plans to raise the U.S. dollar equivalent of \$10 billion this fiscal year.

"If an underwriter were really unhappy, we would be reluctant to exercise a call," Mr. Siegelbaum said. "We won't risk a relationship for a few extra basis points."

If a lender appears irritated about having the debt called, the bank sometimes agrees to refinance debt with the original lender, he said.

With interest rates already low, the bank did not see a pressing need to have calls included in its new borrowing.

"In this environment, they are not a great focus," he said.

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Fighting erupts despite Yugoslav peace accord

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — Fresh fighting erupted in the rebel Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Wednesday despite a new ceasefire agreement brokered by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Croatian Radio said the north-eastern towns of Osijek, Valpovo and surrounding villages came under artillery fire during the night and reported artillery attacks in Nova Gradiska and machinegun fire in Karlovac in central Croatia.

The radio said three Croatian fighters were killed in a battle in Otocac in western Croatia and nearby Slunj was cut off by the Serb-led Yugoslav army and Serbs opposed to Croatian independence moves.

Belgrade Radio reported heavy fighting overnight in Vukovar in northeast Croatia, almost flattened by more than seven weeks of shelling.

Gorbachev brought the rival presidents of Serbia and Croatia together in Moscow Tuesday.

Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic and Croatia's Franjo Tudjman agreed on an immediate end to hostilities and said they would start talks within a month to sort

out their differences. They called on the superpowers and the European Community (EC) to help organise the negotiations.

"(We) understand each other like no one else because the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia have the same problems," a smiling Gorbachev said.

But the renewed battles showed the huge problems involved in trying to end over 16 weeks of fighting that has killed more than 1,000 people.

Eight ceasefires have failed to end the conflict between the Serbs and the Croats, Yugoslavia's biggest nationalities and old rivals, since Croatia declared independence on June 25 and its 600,000 strong Serb minority rebelled.

In a further attempt to end the crisis, Serbia and its allies on Yugoslavia's collective state presidency planned to meet Wednesday to prepare for the latest round of EC peace talks with the European Community in the Hague Friday.

Four dissenting republics and Yugoslav President Stipe Mesic, a Croat, have not taken part in presidency sessions for more than

a month and federal authority has almost totally collapsed.

Croatia and Slovenia have declared full independence, and Bosnia-Herzegovina Tuesday joined Macedonia in taking steps down that road.

"There is no place for us in Yugoslavia," Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic told the republic's parliament.

Federal Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic immediately flew to Sarajevo and warned Mr. Izetbegovic that the parliament's declaration of sovereignty could cause the bitter fighting in Croatia to spill over into his republic.

Serbs, who make up almost a third of Bosnia's population and who have declared autonomous zones within the republic, quickly denounced the parliamentary votes and said they would in future recognise only federal authority.

"All our obligations towards the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which no longer exists, cease as of today," the Serbian Democratic Party declared.

Despite the agreement in Moscow, a peaceful solution to the Yugoslav crisis looks far away.



Mr. Milosevic says any solution to the conflict must respect the rights of the nationalities, in particular Serbs living in other republics, to self-determination. He repeated his standpoint in Moscow.

Mr. Tudjman says the Yugoslav army must withdraw from Croatia for peace to take hold. But the army refuses, saying the Serbian minority there would face "physical liquidation" without troops to protect them.

Repeated attempts to get a relief convoy into Vukovar have failed although EC officials said another try at least to evacuate wounded people could be made at the end of the week.

Frenchman wins Nobel Physics Prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Pierre-Gilles de Gennes of France won the Nobel Prize in Physics Wednesday for discovering similarities in the behaviour of molecules in a many different materials, including superconductors and the liquid-crystals used in portable calculators.

Dr. Gennes, 58, of the College de France in Paris, was honoured for describing how materials can change from crystals to non-crystalline states, that is, from ordered to disordered arrangements of molecules.

Dr. Gennes told reporters in Paris that he was particularly pleased about winning the prize because it was a time for him to put his research into a broader context. He said he was particularly proud to have won the prize for his work on liquid-crystals, which he had been studying since 1976, in addition to teaching at the college.

"The prize will give me arguments to defend my school," he said, referring to its battles over public funding.

"All of my research, however fundamental, is always motivated by practicality," he said. He cited his recent interest in "super glues" — perhaps a compound so strong it could be used instead of rivets to assemble airplanes.

Dr. Gennes was the eighth Nobel Physics prize winner from France.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awarded the million prize, noted that Dr. Gennes has been called by some "the Isaac Newton of our time." The academy said some of the systems he has studied were so complicated that few physicists thought it possible to incorporate them in a general theory.

Swiss professor wins Nobel Chemistry Prize

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swiss Professor Richard Ernst, of the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zurich, won the 1991 Nobel Chemistry Prize, the Swedish Academy of Sciences said Wednesday.

The Academy cited Prof. Ernst's contributions to the development of a measuring technique used widely in chemistry known as Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy. Prof. Ernst, 58, has been professor of physical chemistry at the Zurich college since 1976. From 1963 to 1968 he was a research scientist at Varian Associates in Palo Alto, California.

The NMR technique, used to analyse the molecular structure of substances in solution, is based on the behaviour of atomic nuclei when placed in a magnetic field. The academy said NMR Spectroscopy had developed in the last 20 years into perhaps the most important instrumental measuring technique in chemistry.

Washington drama ends with Thomas confirmed

WASHINGTON (R) — A real-life Washington drama of sex, lies and politics has ended in a narrow victory for President George Bush and his Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas.

The U.S. Senate confirmed Thomas as America's second black high court justice Tuesday by a 52-48 vote after he overcame sexual harassment charges against him by former aide Anita Hill which postponed his confirmation for a week.

Judge Thomas, 43, succeeds retired Justice Thurgood Marshall, the only other black to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Since the appointment is for life, he is likely to serve well into the next century.

"The nation and the court benefit from having a man of principle who is sensitive to the problems and opportunities facing all Americans," Mr. Bush said in a written statement.

With his wife at his side, Judge Thomas told supporters at his suburban home after his confirmation that it was a "time for healing."

"I think that no matter how difficult or how painful the process has been that this is a time for healing in our country, that we have to put these things behind us, that we have to go forward, and that we have to solve problems that I think became apparent through this process, and certainly have been apparent in our country for some time," Judge Thomas said.

"But this is more, a time for healing, not a time for anger or for animosity or animosity," he said.

Judge Thomas, who rose from childhood poverty in rural Georgia during the segregation era, was nominated by Mr. Bush in July.

The vote was a personal triumph for Senator John Danforth, a Missouri Republican, Judge Thomas's friend of 17 years and his chief strategist for the confirmation battle. But Sen. Danforth said the allegations by Mr. Hill had taken the happiness out

of the vote. "There is no joy in these proceedings. Joy has turned to pain," Sen. Danforth said.

Eleven Democrats and 41 Republicans voted for Judge Thomas while two Republicans and 46 Democrats opposed him. Democrats have a 57-43 majority in the Senate. The House Representatives does not vote on nominations.

It is not certain when Judge Thomas, a new federal appeals court judge, will be sworn in. The Supreme Court opened its Autumn term on Oct. 7 with Judge Marshall's seat vacant.

The nine-member court decides whether laws passed by Congress and the states violate the U.S. constitution on issues ranging from abortion and the death penalty to nude dancing in night clubs.

Last week's planned vote was postponed when several Democrats said they could not support Judge Thomas until Ms. Hill's charges, which Judge Thomas categorically denied, were investigated.

Ms. Hill, a black University of Oklahoma law professor, accused Judge Thomas of making explicit sexual comments to her when she was his assistant at the Education Department and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission a decade ago.

Her charges were dismissed by the Senate Judiciary Committee but, after being leaked to reporters, caused a furor that forced the Senate to investigate them.

Judge Thomas and Ms. Hill both testified at hearings last weekend, but neither had any evidence to prove they were telling the truth and the committee did not reach any conclusions on the issue.

"What we saw was not a hearing but an inquisition," said Democratic Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, one of the two women in the Senate, the other woman, Republican Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas, voted for Judge Thomas.

NATO to slash nuclear arms at Sicily meeting

TAORMINA, Italy (R) — NATO defence ministers, joining in the superpower race to disarm, will condemn thousands of nuclear weapons based in Europe to the scrapheap at a meeting starting in Sicily Thursday.

Alliance officials say the ministers will endorse the recent U.S. decision to destroy all short-range nuclear missiles and nuclear artillery shells and announce deep cuts in the stockpile of nuclear aircraft bombs.

"Within a couple of years, our stockpile of nuclear warheads based in Europe will fall to several hundred from the present level of more than 3,500 — a cut of around 75 per cent," one official said.

During two days of talks in the resort of Taormina, the ministers will also approve a review of NATO policy on the use of nuclear weapons, but will not drop the alliance's commitment to use nuclear weapons first in a conflict if needed.

The collapse of the Warsaw Pact and turmoil in the Soviet Union have enabled the 16-nation Western alliance to fulfill

repeated promises of deep cuts in the nuclear arsenal.

President George Bush announced this month that all U.S. nuclear artillery shells and short-range launch missiles — so-called "battlefield" nuclear weapons — would be withdrawn and destroyed.

Most are based in Germany and had been intended for use against a massed attack by Warsaw Pact forces that no longer exist.

The Soviet Union has announced it will follow suit by destroying its own tactical weapons. It has several thousand more than NATO.

Alliance officials say this week's meeting of the Nuclear Planning Group (NPG) will also decide to destroy up to half of NATO's stockpile of freefall nuclear aircraft bombs, which comprises about 1,400 U.S. bombs based in Europe and 200 British bombs.

In addition there are about 700 U.S. nuclear missiles and around 1,500 nuclear artillery shells, making a total of 3,600 U.S. nuclear warheads based on European soil.

Mugabe opens Commonwealth summit; calls for change in South Africa

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — President Robert Mugabe, opening a summit of the 50-nation Commonwealth Wednesday, said member-nations must scrutinise their own records while pressing for change in South Africa.

"Time has come for us to take a close look at ourselves," Mr. Mugabe told the assembled presidents, monarchs and prime ministers.

"Indeed when we ourselves individually or collectively betray our own principles we cannot proclaim ourselves as champions of human rights wherever they are being violated," he added.

Nelson Mandela, head of South Africa's National Congress (ANC), listened somberly with the leaders of countries ranging from the African one-party states of Kenya and Malawi to India, the world's largest democracy. Mr. Mandela was invited to the

weeklong summit as an observer. But no representatives of President F.W. de Klerk's government were invited.

At a colourful opening ceremony, women in black and scarlet dresses with other pots on their heads — the traditional Zimbabwe welcome to dignitaries — danced before the leaders to the throb of tribal drums and the rhythm of rumba music.

The meeting, the 28th regular biennial Commonwealth summit, is aimed at charting a new course for the organisation, focusing on the once-taboo subject of human rights violations and dictatorial governments among its own members.

"It is the first summit since the collapse of communism in East Europe, which has triggered pressure for democracy worldwide."

On South Africa, which long dominated Commonwealth sum-

mits with arguments over imposing sanctions, the leaders are due to consider phasing out remaining embargoes.

"South Africans are now talking to each other," said Mr. Mugabe. "A positive start has been made... our decisions and deliberations on South Africa should bring hope to the oppressed and encouragement to the government of South Africa."

Mr. Mugabe, among South Africa's most hostile critics, pointedly made no reference to sanctions — punitive measures he has long demanded.

On the human rights issue, some of the Third World leaders, including Mr. Mugabe, have complained about Western plans to link aid to the democratic records of ex-colonies which tore up Western-style constitutions after independence in the 1950s and 1960s.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian has done little campaigning in the Caucasus Mountains republic, deciding to limit himself to one television appearance, TASS said.

His challengers were Paruir Ayrikhan, chairman of the National Self-Determination Association; Rafael Kazarian, chairman of a Parliamentary Commission on Education, Science, Language and Culture; Ashot Navasardian, leader of the Armenian Republican Party; Sos Sarkisian, chairman of the Dashnaktsyun Party; and Zoriy Balayan, a deputy to the Soviet Parliament.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian, 46, was elected president by the Armenian parliament on Aug. 4, 1990. He defeated the Armenian Communist Party chief Vladimir Movsisyan, 140-76.

A nationalist and a former political prisoner, Mr. Ter-Petrosian spent six months in jail in 1989 for organising demonstrations against Azerbaijani control of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

He said they were being settled in the Khmer Rouge-controlled areas of Phnom Thmai, Pailin and Alung Veng. Khmer Rouge officials have said families going back would be given plots of land.

A man who holds a mining concession in Pailin told Reuters hundreds of houses had been built there and in nearby villages since last month and the Khmer Rouge had borrowed his trucks to transport people from the Thai border.

An official at the United Nations Border Relief Operations (UNBRO) said about 1,000 people had left Site K, one refugee camp, in the last few weeks.

The Khmer Rouge — responsible for the deaths of more than a million Cambodians during their 1975-79 rule — are eager for potential voters to return home before elections are held under a peace plan due to be signed in Paris next week.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva said Tuesday that international relief workers had started spending the night in one camp to deter the Khmer Rouge from forcing residents back to Cambodia against their will.

A spokeswoman said moderate elements within the Khmer Rouge were believed to be against forcing people back but the UNHCR was concerned this would soon become a reality.

Armenians vote in presidential elections

MOSCOW (AP) — Voters in Armenia cast ballots Wednesday in the first direct presidential election in the southern republic's history, with incumbent Levon Ter-Petrosian facing five challengers.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian — a popular leader who has guided the republic on a path towards independence despite the after-effects of a devastating 1988 earthquake and bloody ethnic warfare with neighboring Azerbaijan — was expected to win handily.

Initial election results were expected Thursday. Armenia formally declared independence on Sept. 23.

In addition to the presidential balloting, voters were to choose 20 deputies to the parliament from among more than 180 candidates, the Soviet news agency (TASS) said.

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Fear prevails in Burmese junta's twilight world

BANGKOK (R) — The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Burma's deposed opposition leader has turned the spotlight on a land where a night-time knock at the door can mean imprisonment, torture or even death.

It is now three years since the army, for more than a quarter of a century the muscle behind a quasi-Socialist dictatorship, pushed down thousands of people taking part in mass demonstrations for democracy.

Yet a curfew remains in force, soldiers with machineguns patrol the cities and the calls in the night continue.

In the past two weeks soldiers have revived random house-to-house searches in Rangoon after the curfew to root out opponents, residents there say.

The award of the prize to Aung San Suu Kyi has raised some expectations of eventual change.

"Expectation is one thing, reality is another," Colonel David Abel, finance minister in the military government, said in Bangkok Wednesday, asked if the junta would now honour the May 1990 election results.

Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) won a landslide victory but was barred from taking office.

Aung San Suu Kyi, who was put under house arrest in July 1989, was honoured for her courage in standing up to what the Nobel Committee branded "a regime characterised by brutality."

Foreign residents in Rangoon say fear has prevented open celebrations. "The climate here is pretty hard. People are pretty afraid," said one contacted by telephone from Bangkok.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International has catalogued numerous testimonies by prisoners of tortures including rape, electric shocks, beatings, hanging upside down from revolving ceiling fans and being forced to crawl over broken glass.

Prisoners have also reported being slashed with bayonets and having salt or curry powder rubbed into their wounds.

The military arrest people anywhere — in homes, buses and cafes — and have relentlessly tortured government critics.

Amnesty said in a 1990 report. During the repression in 1988, soldiers cruised the streets of towns nationwide, raking houses and crowds with machinegun fire.

Reports reaching Amnesty International said that after the army seized power in September that year, alleged opponents were taken from their homes and summarily executed in the street.

Since then several thousand suspected opponents, including the senior leadership of the NLD, have been jailed after summary trials before military tribunals.

They include Kyi Maung, who at the age of 72 took over the leadership of the NLD after Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest.

His initial 10-year sentence for what diplomats called a trumped-up charge of disseminating official secrets was recently doubled.

Diplomats, dissidents, human rights organisations and eyewitnesses say torture in custody at times fatal.

Maung Ko, 52, an influential organiser who worked closely with Aung San Suu Kyi, died in custody in November during a visit to Burma of a U.N. human rights investigator.

The government said Maung Ko hanged himself with a blanket but relatives said heavy bruising all over his body showed he had died of torture.

A Briton jailed for three months last year for illegally entering Burma said he saw prisoners being given electric shocks to

their genitals, beaten and half-drowned.

"All the prisoners considered torture so routine that they found it amusing when I told them that it was not normal elsewhere in the world," Paul Key said in an interview soon after his release.

"It was taken for granted that they were you up as soon as you walk through the door."

Li Maolong, a Chinese dissident who fled from his government's suppression of a pro-democracy movement only to be jailed in Burma, told Reuters in September that he saw women raped and other prisoners tortured during his detention in the northeastern town of Lashio.

Thousands of Burmese have fled, many to neighbouring Thailand where they lead an uncertain existence as illegal immigrants subject to forcible repatriation at any time.

They have also faced brutality. In July, a Thai policeman shot and killed a 24-year-old refugee who tried to flee a roundup in Bangkok.

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COLUMN

Thatcher memoirs due in 1993

LONDON (R) — Margaret Thatcher plans to publish the first volume of her memoirs covering her 11 years as Britain's prime minister towards the end of 1993, her publishers said Tuesday. HarpersCollins, owned by media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, said it had acquired worldwide publishing rights — except for Japan — for the two-volume work. The second volume, for which no publication date was announced, will concentrate on Mrs. Thatcher's life before she came to power in 1979. HarpersCollins chief executive Eddie Bell said: "Mrs. Thatcher's years in office are without doubt the most significant of any prime minister in modern history and we are honoured to be working with her."

Inheritance windfall for English Muslim earl

LONDON (R) — A Muslim earl has inherited a large part of an English estate worth nearly \$88 million (\$115 million). Charles Pelham, 27, became the eighth earl of Yarborough when his father John, one of Britain's 100 richest landowners, died in March aged 70. The new earl converted to Islam more than two years ago and is one of two Muslim peers. He is married to a Yugoslav-born Anna-Karin Zecovic and they have a one-year-old son. The family's country seat is Brocklesby Hall in northeast England where the new earl lives.

Mother convicted of stealing sick son's charity money

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian woman who paid for a holiday with 6,000 dollars (\$4,780) raised by charity for her sick son, was given a six-month suspended jail sentence. Annette Marie Burton, 33, was also placed on a good behaviour bond by a court in Tasmania after pleading guilty to dishonestly acquiring a financial advantage. Her six-year-old son Geoffrey suffers from ectodermal dysplasia, a disease that prevents sweating. He cannot go outside in hot weather and often needs baths to keep cool. The money was raised after Burton made a public appeal to take Geoffrey to the United States to get a cooling vest developed for the U.S. space programme. The court was told that instead of going to the United States, Burton travelled to Sydney for a holiday.

Berlin police find baby-selling ring

BERLIN (R) — German police said Monday they had found photographs of 15 babies apparently abducted by gypsies from immigrant reception centres for sale abroad. A Berlin police spokesman said there were 17 suspects in the case, four of them already under arrest. He said the International Police Organisation, Interpol, as well as the French and Dutch police had joined the investigation. The photographs, splashed across the front pages of Berlin tabloid newspapers Monday, were discovered last week in a mobile home in Berlin belonging to a Dutch gypsy. Police said they had found a one-year-old boy and a two-year-old girl in the trailer. They said children had been snatched from shelters housing East European immigrants in Berlin and Braunschweig. A 10-month-old baby plucked from a stroller in Hamburg was found late last month in the Dutch city of Breda, the hometown of the trailer owner, the Berlin police official said. The police official said an international arrest warrant had been issued for a 44-year-old French businessman believed involved with the child kidnapping ring.

Teenager shot in French cops and robbers game

PARIS (R) — A policeman shot and wounded a teenager brandishing a water pistol in a "cops and robbers" game in the French city of Strasbourg, officials said Monday. Regis Degraeve said he was playing with three friends in an underground car park Saturday when the policeman shot him in the shoulder. Local authorities said the policeman, summoned by a worried resident who thought the youths were real robbers, was under investigation.